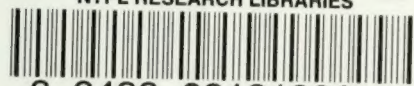


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# HISTORY OF MIAMI COUNTY INDIANA

A Narrative Account of Its Historical Progress, Its People  
and Its Principal Interests

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Edited by  
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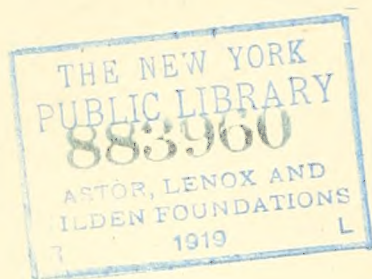
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*James B. Furber*



# History of Miami County

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**JAMES B. FULWILER.** A remarkable life, one replete with experience and achievement and the persistent honor paid to a character of rigid honesty and integrity was that of the late James B. Fulwiler, one of Miami county's earliest pioneers, a merchant, and for many years prominent in public affairs.

The late James B. Fulwiler was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1812, and died on September 6, 1906, at the age of ninety-six years and one day. The ancestry went back to Swiss origin, and in Pennsylvania the family furnished several notable names. Abraham Fulwiler, the father, was one of the first graduates of Dickinson's college of Pennsylvania, and at his death in 1830 left a large estate. The mother's maiden name was Black, her father being a Presbyterian minister, and her cousin being a cabinet officer in President Buchanan's administration. James B. Fulwiler attained a more than ordinary education in one of the chief academic institutions at Pennsylvania at the time and was twenty-three years when he came west and located at Peru, Indiana.

This was in May, 1834, and if the reader will turn to the pages of general history found elsewhere in this work, he will readily see that this was one of the earliest years in the development of this county and city. He brought to Peru a stock of merchandise, and became manager of one of the early stores here, the proprietor of which was Samuel Pike. Mr. Fulwiler's career as a merchant was also noted with public service. In 1838 his friends forced upon him a nomination for the state legislature, but he was defeated as he expected to be. He took a common-sense view of the internal improvement projects of that time, and as his campaign arguments tended to disillusion many of the regimes and anticipations of the Indiana citizens in this vicinity, he did not prove popular and a less clear-sighted, if not less scrupulous candidate was preferred in his stead; However, in about two years his views were seen to be the practical ones, and there was hardly a politician anywhere in the state who would have prominently put forward the propositions which had so much popularity only a few months before. Mr. Fulwiler in 1843 returned to Pennsylvania and on a large body of land in Schuylkill county, aside of his father's estate, opened up and began mining operations on thirteen veins of anthracite coal. On this property Mr. Fulwiler platted the town of Fremont, now one of the flourishing cities in the great anthracite regions of Pennsylvania. In 1847 Mr. Fulwiler was elected clerk of the Miami circuit court, and held the office until June 6, 1855, when he was succeeded by Alexander Blake. He was in 1860 delegate at large from the state of Indiana to the Democratic National convention, which nominated Stephen A. Douglas, as candidate of the northern Democrats for the office of president. In 1861 Mr. Fulwiler

bought a large retail and wholesale grocery in Peru and in 1865 bought a half interest in a furniture manufacturing establishment, which ten days later burned to the ground without insurance. During the late sixties, he dealt extensively in Kansas and Iowa lands, and was very successful for some time, but eventually this business nearly ruined him financially. Through all his career of various business endeavors, and activity in public life, the late Mr. Fulwiler retained a character that neither the pressure of circumstances nor the advocacy of friends nor the opposition of enemies could swerve him from the path of rectitude. For many years, during the latter part of his life, he held the office of justice of the peace in the city of Peru, and having pursued studies in law at an early period in his life, was well-fitted for the duties of justice, which he performed with eminent satisfaction to all concerned.

The late James B. Fulwiler was married March 7, 1837, to Pauline Aveline, daughter of Frances Aveline of Vincennes. Mrs. Fulwiler, who died many years ago, was the mother of the following children: Julia, wife of Harry F. Clark; Louis B.; Fannie, wife of James R. Hamlin; Frank; William; Clarence; and Ada.

**LOUIS B. FULWILER.** A son of the Peru pioneer whose career has been briefly sketched above, Louis B. Fulwiler was one of the oldest native residents of Peru, and for many years has been prominently identified with business and public affairs in this city and in the state. Through his own life he has added distinctions to the many honors which are associated with the name of Fulwiler in Miami county. Louis B. Fulwiler was born in the city of Peru July 13, 1842. He was educated in the schools which existed in this city during the later forties and fifties, and in 1861, at the age of nineteen began his career as a clerk in a railroad office at Peoria, Illinois. This position he resigned in order to join the army, and give his individual service for the preservation of the Union. He returned to Peru in order to enlist from his native city, and in May, 1861, became a member of Company A of the Twentieth Indiana Infantry, under Captain John Van Volkenburgh. His enlistment was for a period of three years or until the end of the war, but a wound disabled him for service and he received his honorable discharge in August, 1862. At the memorable battle fought in Hampton Roads, between the Monitor and Merrimac, his regiment was stationed on the shore and within firing distance so that he had a complete view of that first great conflict between iron clad war vessels. On the first of the seven days fighting before Richmond he was shot through the left leg, was taken to the hospital in Philadelphia, and thence removed to his uncle's home in the same city where his leg was amputated. This injury terminated his services as a soldier, and he returned home. He had sacrificed a great deal for his country, though he was at the front only about fifteen months, for in addition to the wound which deprived him of a leg, he was for seven weeks ill with typhoid fever.

Mr. Fulwiler on returning to Peru became deputy in the county clerk's office, an office which he filled from 1863 to 1870. During the eight years following that he served as county auditor. This official service was his introduction to a larger public and business life of his home city. For ten years he was editor and manager of the *Miami County Sentinel*, a paper which under his direction reached a higher standard as a journal and organized influence. In 1901 Mr. Fulwiler assisted in the organization of the Home Telephone Company, and during the following years when the company was perfecting its organization and facilities throughout this vicinity he was president during this time. The Home Telephone Company sold its business on August 31, 1912, to



the Bell Telephone Company. In 1901 Mr. Fulwiler was appointed by Governor Durbin a trustee of the Soldiers' Home at Lafayette, and he has remained on the board ever since and since 1903 has been secretary of the board. In politics Mr. Fulwiler is a Democrat, and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been prominent in both his fraternal orders, having passed all the chairs in the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and was a charter member and honored as the first commander of the G. A. R. Post.

**JOSEPH N. TILLET.** A native son of Miami county and a representative of one of its honored pioneer families, Judge Tillett has gained secure prestige as one of the leading members of the bar of the county and is now serving with ability and distinction on the bench of the Fifty-first judicial circuit of the state. This high official preferment indicates beyond peradventure that he has secure vantage-ground in popular confidence and esteem and that to him there can be no application of the scriptural aphorism that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." He is one of the liberal and public-spirited citizens of Peru, the judicial center of his native county, and the community has granted to him a circle of friends that is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

Judge Tillett was born on the old homestead farm of the family, in Peru township, on the 27th of November, 1865, and is the youngest in a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are living except the oldest member of family, Romaze M. Boone. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Grimes) Tillett, the former of whom was born in Virginia and the latter in Ohio. William Tillett was a boy at the time of the family removal from the historic Old Dominion commonwealth to the state of Indiana, about the year 1829, and his parents, James and Susannah (Buck) Tillett, were representatives of sterling old families that were founded in Virginia in the colonial days. James Tillett first settled in Wayne county, where he remained until 1834, when he removed with his family to Miami county and numbered himself among its pioneer settlers. He secured a tract of wild land in the midst of the forests of Peru township, there erected his primitive log cabin and there instituted the reclamation of a farm. Both he and his wife remained on the old homestead until their death and the names of both merit enduring place on the roll of the honored pioneers who contributed their quota to the social and industrial development of Miami county. James Tillett was a staunch Democrat of the true Jacksonian type, and in the pioneer community he became a citizen of no little influence in public affairs, as is indicated by the fact that he served for some time in the office of county commissioner.

Reared to years of maturity under the sturdy discipline of the pioneer farm, William Tillett received in his youth but limited educational advantages of specific order, owing to the exigencies and conditions of time and place, but through ambition and close application to study in an independent way he gained a good practical education, as shown by his proving himself eligible for pedagogic honors. He was a successful and popular teacher in the district schools of his home county for some time and in the meanwhile he had the varied experiences that marked the life of the average pioneer. He gained reputation, like Nimrod of old, as a "mighty hunter," and his prowess was shown in his supplying the family larder with deer, wild turkey and an occasional bear, as wild game was most plentiful in this section of the state during the years of his youth and early manhood. He became one of the substantial and representative agriculturists of the county.

was a citizen of the highest integrity of purpose and ever commanded the unqualified esteem of his fellow men. His was a life of consecutive industry, unmarked by dramatic incidents or ostentation, but prolific in usefulness and honor. His loved and devoted wife, who proved a true helpmeet, was a woman of noble character and most attractive personality,—one who held the affectionate regard of all who came within the sphere of her gentle influence. She likewise had been a popular teacher in the common schools of Miami county, prior to her marriage, and made the home one of ideal order in its atmosphere and associations. She was summoned to eternal rest on the 30th of March, 1901, a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and her bereaved husband did not long survive her, as he passed away on the 6th of February, 1903. Though never a seeker of public office, William Tillett was ever ready to lend his aid in the furtherance of enterprises and measures projected for the general good of the community, and his political allegiance was given to the Democratic party.

Judge Joseph Newton Tillett gained his early experience in connection with the work of the home farm, where he waxed strong in brain and brawn and eventually found his ambition quickened with a desire for a broader sphere of endeavor. His preliminary education was acquired in the district schools and was supplemented by two years of study in the public schools of Peru. In 1883 he was matriculated in Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1888 and from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Science. In the autumn of the same year, in preparation for the work of his chosen profession, he entered the law department of the great University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor; and in the same he was graduated as a member of the class of 1890, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

Immediately after his graduation Judge Tillett was admitted to the bar of his native state and engaged in the practice of law at Peru, the capital of his native county, where he formed a professional partnership with Nott N. Antrim, under the firm name of Antrim & Tillett. He soon proved his resourcefulness as an able trial lawyer and well fortified counselor, and thus his professional novitiate was marked by success which effectively presaged the advancement which he has since gained in his chosen vocation. The partnership alliance continued until 1894, when Mr. Tillett was elected prosecuting attorney of his native county, an office in which he made a splendid record, with the result that he was re-elected at the expiration of his first term and thus served four consecutive years as public prosecutor. He handled many important cases within this period and through his ability in this connection he greatly advanced his professional reputation. Upon retiring from office Judge Tillett resumed the independent practice of his profession, and he built up a large and substantial law business, with a clientage of representative order. In 1902 there came a well merited recognition of his character and technical ability, in that he was elected to the bench of the Fifty-first judicial circuit, of which important office he has since continued the valued incumbent, through re-election in 1908, his present term expiring in 1914. On the bench his opinions have been marked by broad conceptions of the principles of equity and justice, by a thorough knowledge of law and precedent and by a judicial wisdom that has made his decisions fair and impartial, few of them having met with reversal by courts of higher jurisdiction. Fidelity and a high sense of stewardship have been shown by Judge Tillett in all the relations of life, and he well merits the high regard in which he is held in his native county.



Reared in the faith of the Democratic party and a firm believer in its basic principles and politics, Judge Tillet has never wavered in his allegiance to the same and has given effective service in behalf of the party cause, the present national ascendancy of which he naturally views with complacency. The attractive residence of Judge Tillet is situated on a part of the old homestead farm on which he was born, the same lying contiguous to the city of Peru, and this attractive home is known as a center of cultured and gracious hospitality, with Mrs. Tillet as its popular chateleine. Both Judge and Mrs. Tillet are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Peru.

On the 10th of August, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Tillet to Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, of Washington, this state, and they have two children, Lois Elizabeth and Robert Baldwin, both of whom remain at the parental home.

**MICHAEL HORAN.** With the death of Michael Horan on January 17, 1913, there passed from the ranks of local citizenship one of the oldest and most highly respected men of Peru. For more than half a century he had been identified with business and civic affairs. Of a genial and generous disposition, he had made friends wherever he was, and along with a talent for making friendship he also possessed keen business judgment and accumulated a competence for himself and family.

Michael Horan was a native of Ireland, his birth occurring in Roscommon county, September 22, 1841, a son of Michael and Margaret (Byrne) Horan. When he was six years old the father and other members of the family came to America. When an infant he had lost his mother, and he remained in Ireland up to 1857, attaining most of his education in that country, and in the latter year crossed the Atlantic and joined the rest of the family in Hamilton, Ohio. He spent three years as a student in the Hamilton high school and also studied under a special tutor. He was ambitious to become a civil engineer and directed his studies toward that end.

Mr. Horan took up his residence in Peru in 1861. For some time he was at work as a painter, an occupation which he had followed more or less since boyhood. In 1880, in line with his regular profession he was elected surveyor of Miami county and held that position for eight years, and for nine years he was city engineer of Peru. He was always an active Democrat.

At the time of his death Mr. Horan owned three farms, one in Richland township, consisting of eighty acres, one in Deer Creek township, also of eighty acres, and one in Peru township of seventy-four acres, and was also the owner of several valuable realty interests. When he first came to Peru his brothers were engaged in operating a plow factory here, and when not engaged in painting he worked in this factory for a time. Michael Horan had come to America a poor boy and had almost a typical career of progress and prosperity. He was industrious and economical and strictly honest to the cent. In this way he not only accumulated the farms already enumerated, but considerable city property as well. While he was reared a Catholic he was a member of no religious organization.

Mr. Horan was married September 23, 1886, to Miss Elizabeth Campbell, a daughter of John and Rebecca (Spence) Campbell, and a granddaughter of William Campbell, who was a native of Scotland, and who married Elizabeth Robinson. When William Campbell was two years old, in 1794, he accompanied his father John Campbell and other members of the family to America, locating in Path Valley near Cham-

bersburg, Pennsylvania. In that locality the family attained what was known in pioneer times as a "tomahawk claim." William Campbell was married and spent the remainder of his life in Pennsylvania. Among his children were John Campbell, who was born in Pennsylvania, January 10, 1821, and who until a few years ago was one of the old and honored pioneer residents of Miami county. He learned the trade of tailor, and when about twenty-one years of age came west by canal and on foot to Lafayette, Indiana. In 1849 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Jackson township of Cass county, built a log cabin in a clearing, and after years of toil and self-sacrifice cleared up and perfected a splendid country estate. He was twice married, his second wife being Miss Rebecca Spence, a daughter of John and Esther Spence. The children of John Campbell by this second marriage were Elizabeth, Mrs. Horan; William and Wilson, twins; John, who died at the age of twenty-seven; Viola; and Mary O.

Mr. Horan and wife had two sons, John and Thomas. John is at present time city engineer of Peru, and Thomas is a student in the state university of Indiana. Mrs. Horan, the mother, still resides in Peru, and enjoys the respect and esteem of a large circle of Miami county people, who remember with affection not only her late husband, but also her honored pioneer father.

**JOHN J. KREUTZER.** A resident of the thriving little city of Peru, judicial center of Miami county, from the time of his nativity to the present, Mr. Kreutzer has been a representative factor in business activities and in the promotion of enterprises and measures tending to advance the civic and material welfare of his native city and county. That there can be in his case no application of the scriptural aphorism that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country" needs no further voucher than the statement that he is now serving as mayor of Peru, in which chief executive office of the municipal government he is giving a most efficient and progressive administration, with the earnest co-operation of the other city officials and the general public.

Mayor Kreutzer was born in Peru on the 16th of December, 1857, and is a scion of one of the old and honored families of Miami county. He is a son of Jacob and Margaret (Lang) Kreutzer, the former a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and the latter of Bavaria, their marriage having been solemnized in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1854. Jacob Kreutzer was a child at the time of the family immigration to America and the home was established in Auglaize county, Ohio, where he was reared to adult age and received good educational advantages, as gauged by the standards of the locality and period. A man of ambitions and self-reliance, his activities could not long be directed along secondary or dependent lines, and in April, 1852, he came to Indiana and established his home in Peru, which was then a mere village in the midst of a country that was in process of development. He established himself in the general merchandise business, by opening a modest store on South Broadway, near the Wabash river, and after thus initiating his independent career as an Indiana merchant he soon gained the sustaining influence and sympathy of the young woman who was to prove his devoted companion and helpmeet and the loving mother of his children, his marriage to Miss Margaret Lang having been solemnized in 1854, as previously noted in this context. Jacob Kreutzer continued to hold precedence as one of the leading merchants of Peru for more than forty years and was one of the most widely known and highly honored business men of the county at the time of his retirement from mercantile pursuits, when well advanced



in years. Secure in the high regard of all who knew him and recognized as a loyal and public-spirited citizen, he passed the closing period of his long and useful life in gracious retirement from the cares and exactions of business and at his pleasant old home in Peru he was summoned to the life eternal in July, 1905, his cherished and devoted wife having passed away in January, 1901, after their ideal companionship had continued for nearly half a century. Of their six children two sons and three daughters are living, and all may well revere the memory of the parents, whose lives were unostentatious but filled with worthy achievement and replete with kindly thoughts and kindly deeds. Jacob Kreutzer was a staunch Democrat in his political proclivities and both he and his wife were zealous and devout communicants of the Catholic church, the noble mother of Christendom. For many years Mr. Kreutzer was a member of the directorate of the First National Bank of Peru and he was the owner of valuable real estate in his home city. As a citizen and business man he left an unblemished reputation and his name merits a place of honor on the roster of the pioneer merchants and sterling men of Miami county.

The public and parochial schools of Peru afforded to the city's present mayor his early educational advantages and this discipline was supplemented by his attending St. Mary's Institute, at Dayton, Ohio, for two years, and by one year of study in the great Notre Dame University, at South Bend, Indiana. After his retirement from the university Mr. Kreutzer continued to be actively associated with his father's mercantile business until he had attained to the age of twenty-four years, after which he held, for a period of about six months, a clerical position in the First National Bank of Peru. He then assumed the position of clerk and bookkeeper in the offices of the Cole brewery, with which he continued to be identified for several years. In 1889 he became interested with others in the establishing of a glass manufactory in Peru, and the enterprise was successfully continued for a period of about ten years, when the failure of supply of natural gas rendered the venture unprofitable, with the result that the factory was closed. Thereafter Mr. Kreutzer was one of the interested principals and an active executive of the Peru Grocery Company, a wholesale concern, until 1908, since which time he has given his attention to the general insurance business, in which he has built up a substantial and prosperous enterprise, as representative of leading insurance companies. To this business he gives his personal supervision to such extent as is possible in connection with the demand placed upon him in the office of mayor of his native city, to which maximum position of trust in connection with municipal affairs he was elected in November, 1909, for a term of four years. Signally loyal to his home city and deeply interested in everything that tends to advance its social and material welfare, he has shown much ability in directing the municipal government along progressive lines with due conservatism in the expenditure of the city revenues. His regime has brought about numerous public improvements and has gained to him unequivocal popular approval.

In politics Mr. Kreutzer has ever given unswerving allegiance to the Democratic party, and it is needless to say that he views with complacency the ascendancy of the same in national affairs since the election of November, 1912. Both he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church, in which they hold membership in the parish of St. Charles church, with liberality and zeal in the support of parochial and diocesan activities.

On the 18th of June, 1885, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kreutzer to Miss Rosa Ebah, of Steubenville, Ohio. She was born in



Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, and of their thirteen children all are living except one, Henry Leo, who was the eighth in order of birth and who died at the age of seven months. The surviving children are: Jacob A., Katherine R., Francis M., John B., Carl B., Marguerite, Anna Marie, Clement J., Victor E., Mark G., Robert and Mary Elizabeth. Jacob A. is a dentist of Peru; Katherine is attending Nurses' Training School in South Bend; Francis M., married Emma Rothermal, and is with Julius Falk of Peru; John B. is in the jewelry business; Carl B. is with the Wabash R. R.; Marguerite is a nun of St. Mary of the Woods; and Anna Marie and the remainder of the children are at home.

**WILLIAM L. PHILLEBAUM.** A veteran of the Civil war, one of Miami's soldiers in the great conflict, William Phillebaum has spent about seventy years of his lifetime, except the period while he was in the war, in this county, and as a soldier, a citizen, a farmer, and industrious worker is held in high esteem by all his community.

The birthplace of William Phillebaum was Montgomery county, Ohio, where he was born January 30, 1838. His parents were Samuel and Sophia (Meyers) Phillebaum. His mother's father was Abraham Meyers. In 1843, when William was five years old, the parents left Ohio, and with Miami county as their destination drove overland through the woods, and along the primitive highways, a greater part of which were little more than trails, and spent several days in a journey which may now be accomplished by train in a few hours. An object of terror to the child William was an Indian, and while the family were making the journey, and also after they settled in Miami county, there were seen a number of the red men who had not yet retired from this state.

One interesting fact concerning the early settlement, especially along the pike through Erie township, is called to attention by Mr. Phillebaum. The pike, although at that time it deserved no name better than trail, and was in fact an old Indian trail was a principal thoroughfare through Erie township during the early settlement, and the settlers on either side would lay out their farms, in conformity with the course of the road, fencing up to its line. Thus the old road was established in its present sinuous and crooked course, and all the subsequent efforts of modern road making and surveying had never eliminated all the angles which it makes in the length of a few miles.

Samuel Phillebaum, the father, located on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Erie township, and his son William occupies land adjoining that old homestead. The first building was a hewed log cabin, and it is still standing on the old farm, although after it ceased to be a habitation, its timbers were taken apart and they were moved and set up in a new location. The father occupied that home from 1843 until 1865. The old log house stood in the midst of the woods when first erected, and only a small proportion of all the surrounding country had been cleared and opened to cultivation. In these woods were many deer, wild turkeys and wolves, and William Phillebaum is one of the men still living in Miami county who have a keen recollection of those primitive days, when animals now seen hardly anywhere except in menageries were familiar sights in almost any part of the county. The father lived in the old log house until his death.

William Phillebaum staid on the old homestead with his family, until he was thirty-four years of age. As a boy he had attended such local schools as were then provided in Erie township, and had only a limited education, which he has supplemented in later life by study and practical observation. The schools were open for only about sixty days in the year. William Phillebaum gained a hardy experience working in the

woods while a boy, and he also worked for wages, among the surrounding farmers, getting five dollars a month for some time, and later receiving twelve dollars a month for his labor. His military experience began in 1862. He enlisted in that year in the Sixteenth Indiana Infantry, and was with that regiment during a greater part of its varied campaigns. At the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, he was wounded in the right knee, still having the bullet, and taken prisoner. Later he went through the siege of Vicksburg, and was with the Banks Expedition up Red River, and in that unfruitful campaign he was taken prisoner. As a prisoner he was sent to Texas, and was confined in the old prison at Tyler, Texas. He spent about four months as a prisoner among the Confederates, including the time going and coming. His regiment did a great deal of guard duty, and it was for that reason in many skirmishes. While Mr. Phillebaum was in prison, he was of course unable to tell what his regiment was doing, but without exception he participated in practically every campaign and movement of his command. His regiment was in seventy-two battles and skirmishes during the war, and Mr. Phillebaum was in most of these excepting those that occurred while he was a prisoner. Among the battles in which he participated were those of Richmond, Ky., siege of Vicksburg, Arkansas Post, Jackson and Banks' expedition up the Red River. He was mustered out of service at New Orleans, and got his final discharge at Indianapolis. This was in 1865 at the end of the war.

He then returned to the home of his parents in Miami county, and as he had little inclination for farming he took up carpenter work. After marrying and establishing a home of his own he bought his present farm of thirty-seven acres from his father. This is one of the very well improved places of the county, and Mr. Phillebaum has erected all the buildings, and practically every improvement is the result of his labor and management. While a man who has enjoyed his fair share of prosperity, he has also interested himself in behalf of local matters, and served as supervisor, and as pike superintendent in his township. For a number of years he was active in the Grand Army post, but resigned on account of the long distance he had to travel in order to attend the meetings. He is a member of the United Brethren church and Mrs. Phillebaum of the Christian church.

Mr. Phillebaum was first married in 1872 to Mary Ann Cox, a daughter of Levi Cox. By this marriage there were three children. Bertha died at the age of nine years; Elmer is married and Alva is single, and both live in North Dakota. The former has resided at Cando for fifteen years and is a teacher of the Chiropractic doctrine. The latter is a resident of Sarles, where he is serving as marshal. He is by trade a carpenter. The mother of these children died many years ago, and Mr. Phillebaum married for his present wife Elizabeth Rinker (a daughter of Henry and Sallie (Hickel) Rinker. There have been no children by the second marriage.

Mrs. Phillebaum is a native of Miami county, Indiana, born March 12, 1848, and reared and educated in this county and the west part of Indiana. She went to Boston, Massachusetts, and entered "The Boston City Hospital Training School for Nurses" was graduated January 27, 1884, and spent fifteen years of her life in Boston in her profession and two years at Fort Wayne. She and her husband in their youth received their education in a log school house with slab benches and desks and the school was a subscription one. Some of the early text books were Ray's Arithmetic, McGuffey's Readers, "Western Adventures of Indian Fighters" and the New Testament. The early amusements were log rollings, quilting bees and dances. Mr. Phillebaum has seen plenty



of deer and wolves in Miami county. He was one of the trustees in the building of the beautiful brick church in Erie township and he has always been a member of the United Brethren church and a worker in the Sunday school.

EBENEZER P. LOVELAND. If "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches," and if a purposeful life conforming to high ideals impresses one's personality upon the society in which he lives, to its lasting betterment, then Ebenezer P. Loveland achieved life's best ambition and transmitted to his children an heritage which justifies them in their pride of ancestry.

Mr. Loveland was born at West Rutland, Vermont, November 25, 1817, the youngest son of Col. Joseph and Beulah (Pratt) Loveland. He was ten years old when his parents moved to Granville, Ohio, where he had school advantages until his sixteenth year, but at this time his father died and thus he was thrown on his own resources. For several years he was engaged in teaching school, pursuing in the meantime his literary studies, these being in the direction of law, for which he had natural inclination, and later he continued his studies at Richmond, Indiana. From Richmond he removed to Anderson, Indiana, where he finished his preparation for the practice of law, and in 1840 came to Miami county, making the journey on foot from Anderson to Peru. He entered the practice of his profession at Peru, and there continued in the practice for fifteen years, during a portion of which time he was in partnership with the late Nathan O. Ross. His learning and ability early attracted a large clientage. Resourcefulness and persistence were among his strong qualities, and these, together with his power as an orator, in which he was not excelled by any of his contemporaries, insured and maintained his position as one of the leaders of the bar, in Miami and neighboring counties.

One, perhaps the dominant, element in Mr. Loveland's character was his intense patriotism. Until the line of cleavage between the Whig and Democratic parties became obscured and at last obliterated by the then threatening cloud of disunion, his affiliations were with the former; but when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the passage of the Nebraska and Fugitive Slave bills, and the doctrine of popular sovereignty in the territories, brought the Republican party into being, he became at once one of its earliest adherents. At that time, and until 1856, the *Miami County Sentinel*, founded in 1848, was the only pronounced party organ in the county. It was edited by John A. Graham, a pro-slavery Democrat of striking ability, and advocated the cause of that party. The duty of establishing a local organ that would voice their sentiments became apparent to the Union men of the county, and in 1856 Mr. Loveland, in response to that sentiment, purchased the *Peru Weekly News*, "a family paper" devoted to the news of the day, politics, science, mechanics, agriculture and education, and began the publication of the *Peru Republican* under the motto borrowed from the peroration of Webster's reply to Hayne: "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable." From the onset the paper was prosperous. It received, from the beginning, the loyal support of the Republicans of the county, and particularly of those active in party councils, who realized the crisis through which the country was passing. From this time until 1862, Mr. Loveland, assisted in both the editorial and mechanical work by his oldest son, Henry Clay Loveland, then a boy in his teens, continued the publication of the paper with such success that from 1861 to 1863 it enjoyed a monopoly of the field, the *Miami County Sentinel* having discontinued publication dur-



EBENEZER P. LOVELAND





ing that period. Early in 1862, however, the paper was leased, and later sold, the son, Henry Clay Loveland, then in his eighteenth year, having enlisted as lieutenant in the Fourteenth Indiana Battery, and died in the service in June of that year. From 1863 to 1867, Mr. E. P. Loveland was engaged as assistant paymaster of the Indiana Legion, with headquarters at Indianapolis, and at the time the Democratic members of the legislature resigned their seats, in order to prevent the ratification of the Fifteenth amendment to the Federal constitution, was the Republican candidate for the legislature. He was defeated, however, but by a small majority. Mr. Loveland was always interested in the internal improvements of the county, and was largely instrumental in bringing about the present turn-pike system and equally was interested in all movements having for their object the best interests of Peru. While editor of the *Republican* he persistently urged upon the citizens the propriety of not only improving and keeping in repair the streets of the city, but also of beautifying their own premises; and at times, at his own expense, purchased and distributed trees and shrubs in furtherance of that object. He early took a stand in support of temperance reform in Indiana, having been a total abstainer since he signed the Washington pledge when a boy in Vermont, and became an active member of the Sons of Temperance, in 1851 being made a delegate to the Grand Division of that organization for his state, which met at Indianapolis. While in attendance at this meeting he was chosen a delegate to and later attended the National Division, which convened at Richmond, Virginia, in the summer of 1852. In 1853 he was elected vice-president of the Cincinnati, Peru & Chicago Railroad that was then being built between Laporte and Peru. He was active in his endeavors to secure the location of the Howe Sewing Machine Works and other factories in Peru, and it was while within the building of the Howe factory, warning those trying to save the company's property of imminent danger, apparent from without, February 10, 1871, that he met a violent death by being crushed beneath the burning building. This lamentable event cast a shade of deepest gloom over the entire city and county, for his death was not only looked upon as a public calamity, but also as a personal loss to those with whom he had come in contact in social and business relations. Public appreciation of his qualities as a man and citizen found expression from the pulpit and in the press, that "The world is better for his having lived in it." His wife, with whom he had ever maintained the tenderest relations, never survived the shock, but died on April 12th of that year. Mr. Loveland continued an ardent supporter of the Republican party until his death, believing in its principles and always opposing everything that seemed like dishonesty. He was reared in the Presbyterian faith and was a constant member of that religious body all of his life. On October 12, 1842, Mr. Loveland was married to Miss Jane Hood, a daughter of Robert Hood of Fort Wayne, and niece of William N. Hood, the founder of Peru, at whose home she was visiting when she met her future husband. Seven children were born to them: Henry C., who became a lieutenant in the Fourteenth Indiana Battery in the Civil war, and died at Bethel, Tennessee, shortly after the battle of Shiloh; Celia, who became the wife of Abram C. Faling, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and there died a widow, leaving three children now grown; Alice, who became the wife and later the widow of Lewis Morrill, and died at Peru, on January 17, 1907; Clara, the only surviving daughter of the family, who was married to Dr. B. R. Graham and became the mother of a son and daughter, both living; Hood P., a successful lawyer, who since 1906 has been postmaster of Peru; Robert J., also a lawyer, and Irene; the last named having died in infancy.



HOOD PRATT LOVELAND. Much has been said and written about "self-made men"—men who in youth begin their preparations for an active business career amid humble surroundings and confronted by adverse conditions, yet who, by their energy and determination, surmount all obstacles and rise to positions of prominence among their fellow-men. The success of such men is not always to be measured by their bank accounts, for, as a rule, the ambitious boy has a higher ideal than the mere accumulation of wealth. He wants to win the regard of those with whom he comes in contact; to leave the impress of his character and labors behind him after his life's work is done; to be remembered as an upright man, a good citizen, and a useful member of society.

Hood P. Loveland is essentially a self-made man. He is a native of Miami county, having been born in the city of Peru on August 21, 1853, a son of E. P. Loveland, mentioned above. His parents died when he was about seventeen years of age and the children were immediately scattered. Hood was taken out of school and went to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he found a home with his eldest sister, Mrs. Celia L. Faling. He remained with her but a few months, however, his desire for an education taking him to Marshall, Michigan, where he attended school, earning his board and tuition by his own efforts. From Marshall he went to Aurora, Illinois, where he began the study of law in the office of N. F. Nichols. Subsequently he read with the firm of Wheaton, Smith & McDole. About this time he came into a small inheritance from his father's estate, which enabled him to attend law school at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and in 1875, when twenty-two years of age, he graduated as a member of the class of that year in the law department of the University of Michigan.

Returning then to Peru, he formed a partnership with Hon. Nott N. Antrim for the practice of law. This partnership was soon afterward dissolved and Mr. Loveland went to Converse, where he opened a law office and practiced for two or three years. Here he learned the lesson that all young attorneys must sooner or later learn—that there is no royal road to success. His earnings were meager and a publishing company extending to him an attractive offer, he abandoned the law for a time and undertook the work of writing several county histories in the State of Illinois, as well as biographical works of the States of Georgia and Texas. He continued in that line of work for six years, during part of that time having general charge of the business of the F. A. Battey Publishing Company. Early in 1888 he resigned his position with this company to enter into partnership with his brother, Robert J. Loveland, for the practice of law at Peru. This partnership lasted for eighteen years, or until the subject of this sketch was appointed postmaster at Peru in 1906, in which position he continued for more than eight years.

Politically Mr. Loveland has always been a Republican. He has frequently been called upon to serve his party as a delegate in county, district and state conventions. As a member of committees on resolutions in such conventions he has always stood for affirmative doctrines and declarations in favor of temperance and against the liquor traffic. In 1904 he was a delegate from the Eleventh Congressional district to the Republican national convention that nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the presidency, but he did not follow Mr. Roosevelt in the great division of the Republican party in 1912, standing in that campaign as a supporter of President Taft and the "regular" wing of the party. In 1904 A. L. Lawshe, one of the founders of the *Converse Journal* and a warm personal friend of Mr. Loveland, was auditor of the Philippine Islands. He advised Mr. Loveland that a judge of the Court of First

Instance—a tribunal corresponding to the Indiana circuit courts—was to be appointed for the Philippines and suggested that he become an applicant for the place. Assured that the appointment would be made solely upon merit, Mr. Loveland proceeded upon that hypothesis, without depending the least upon a "political pull." He was unanimously indorsed by the justices of the Indiana Supreme and Appellate Courts, the judges of the United States Circuit Court and Court of Appeals, the Miami county bench and bar, and a number of prominent attorneys and business men throughout the state. In the letter of recommendation from the Supreme Court the justices said: "Mr. Loveland is a citizen of the highest character—a learned lawyer, one of the leading attorneys of our state, fifty-one years of age, of robust health, of thirty years active and successful practice of his profession—an all round good citizen, and in our judgment his appointment to the office he seeks would be wise and eminently useful to the public service in the Islands."

But with all the indorsements and the assurance that the appointment would be made solely upon merit, politics crept in and the office went to a Fort Wayne man. Mr. Loveland was disappointed, as the office was in line with his life work and one for which he was eminently well qualified, both by training and experience. In 1906 he was appointed postmaster at Peru and held the position until the spring of 1914. As postmaster he introduced a number of reforms in the office and improved the service through his careful observance of the things needed to secure better results. Always courteous and accommodating, he was popular with the patrons of the postoffice and frequent expressions of regret were heard when it was learned that he was to be succeeded by another man.

On September 18, 1896, Mr. Loveland married Miss Margaret Galbreath, of Peru, and this union has been blessed with four children—Pratt Robert, Helen Margaret, Ailine Jane and Ebenezer Clay. Mr. and Mrs. Loveland are members of the First Presbyterian church and he was one of the trustees that built the present magnificent edifice at the corner of Main and Cass streets, in the city of Peru.

**ROBERT J. LOVELAND.** As an active and influential member of the Miami county bar for upwards of thirty-three years, Robert J. Loveland, senior member of the firm of Loveland & Sollitt, wields an influence in Peru that only men of unusual strength of character and power can exercise in a community of this size. He was born January 17, 1858, and is the youngest son of Ebenezer P. and Jane (Hood) Loveland.

He was reared in his native city of Peru, and here attended the public schools until his thirteenth year, at which time occurred the death of his father and mother. In 1873, after a year spent upon a farm in Wisconsin, he entered Central College Academy of Franklin county, Ohio, and was graduated from that institution four years later, succeeding which he entered Wabash College. He continued a student there until 1879, and then returned to Peru and began the study of law in the office of Shirk & Mitchell, thus continuing until the spring of 1881. Prior to this time, Mr. Loveland taught two terms of school in Ohio and one in Indiana, and in 1880 was admitted to the bar, but did not engage in the practice of his profession until the ensuing year, when on April 4, 1881, he formed a partnership with Ethan T. Reasoner, which association continued until 1884, when it was dissolved. Mr. Loveland then becoming a partner of Mr. R. P. Effinger. This partnership continued until January, 1888, after which for a number of years his brother Hood P. Loveland was associated with him in practice, which partnership ceased at the time of the latter's appointment to the office



of postmaster at Peru in March, 1906. The present firm of Loveland & Sollitt was formed in 1911, and this has proven a harmonious and mutually advantageous association, which in the volume and character of its business, and its ability in handling the same, has rank among the strongest legal firms of northern Indiana.

Mr. Loveland is a Republican of the stalwart variety, and from 1890 to 1894 served Miami and Howard counties as joint state senator. During the four years of his service in that office the legislature was overwhelmingly Democratic, and but slight opportunity was afforded Republicans to do effective service for the state until, in the session of 1893, Abel Ewing, a Democrat and former deputy warden of the prison south, who had vainly endeavored to induce the responsible leaders of his own party to correct flagrant abuses in the prison system of the state, put his case into the hands of Mr. Loveland, with the result that Mr. Loveland, in the senate and Mr. Lindemuth, of Richmond, Indiana, Republican leader in the house, concurrently presented charges against the prison management. These charges were followed by an investigation by the prison committees of the senate and house occupying three weeks, participated in by Mr. Lindemuth and Mr. Loveland, with the result that, while the committee divided on party lines on their report, the abuses in the then system of prison discipline were made so manifest that a bill was introduced by the majority members of the committee and passed through both bodies under suspension of the rules and was promptly signed by the governor, that effected radical reforms in prison management that were the beginning of the general system of prison reform that was made effective in the state by the legislatures that succeeded in 1895 and subsequent years.

On August 18, 1898, Mr. Loveland was united in marriage with Miss Maude Ellis, who, like Mr. Loveland, is a member of the Presbyterian church. She is a native of Laconia, New Hampshire, where she was born February 28, 1878. The children of this union are Robert P., born September 22, 1900; Joseph W. born March 30, 1902; Elizabeth, born November 20, 1903; Henry Clay, born March 14, 1905; Harriett, born February 24, 1907, and John Ellis, born July 3, 1909.

Through their mother these children trace their lineage to a distinguished Revolutionary ancestry—Joshua Ellis, their great-great-grand-father, having been a member of the company that marched from Keene, New Hampshire, on the alarm to Boston, where he was severely wounded in the battle of Bunker Hill, on June 17, 1775; and Timothy D. Ellis, the father of Joshua, having served as a sergeant and later as a lieutenant in the French and Indian wars, in the expeditions against Crown Point and Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia. In 1777 he was major of the Sixth Regiment of New Hampshire militia; marched with his regiment to Ticonderoga in May of that year; was appointed major of Nichols' regiment, under Starke, and commanded his battalion at Bennington; and rose to colonel of the Sixth Regiment on February 24, 1783.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Loveland are descended from ancestors who came to America from England in 1635; the one from Robert Loveland who lost his life at sea while crossing as supercargo, with his wife and two sons; and the other, in one line, from Samuel Morse who sailed in the *Increase* from England April 15, 1635, and in the direct Ellis line from Richard Ellis, who was one of the original proprietors of Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1642.

GUSTAVE ADOLPH GERMANN. Probably in no line of enterprise more than in that of building and contracting do the conditions of success

depend more completely upon a solid ability, an experience in the varied branches of a technical calling and a thorough knowledge of men and materials. By sheer force of native ability has Mr. Germann, who is now one of the most successful contractors of Peru, risen to his place in the business circles of Miami county. When he was twenty-one years of age he possessed hardly a dollar of his own, but he was equipped with a thorough knowledge of his chosen trade and a determination to succeed. Through patient application and industry he has in the subsequent years worked his way to a commanding position among the business leaders of Peru.

The Germann family, which is one quite widely distributed in this country, being especially well represented in Ohio, traces its ancestry to the Protestant branch of the noble Hessian, now Prussian, von Germann family. Gustave Adolph Germann was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, on July 4, 1860. He is one of the seven surviving children in a family of five boys and five girls, whose parents were George Peter and Mary Elizabeth (Hofmann) Germann, both of whom were natives of Hessen-Homburg, now Rhenish Prussia, where they were married. In 1843, the spring following their marriage, the parents left their native land for America, and spent forty-five days in the tedious voyage by sailing vessel from the European to the American shores. Partly by railroad and partly by canal they journeyed west to Canal Dover in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where they had relatives. After a short time they drove on to Van Wert county, where a brother, Carl Philip Germann, lived. In Van Wert county, then covered with virgin forest, he began his career as a pioneer farmer, an occupation in which he continued there until March, 1877, at which date he came on to Miami county, Indiana. He bought a garden spot adjoining the corporate limits of Peru, and was there engaged in raising vegetables for the Peru market. While living there Mrs. Germann passed away on August 4, 1878. Soon afterwards her husband sold out the truck farm and went to Crown Point, where he had a married daughter living, and he died at that place on August 12, 1901, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Both parents were devout members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and they reared their children in the same faith. Two of the sons became ministers of this denomination, one of them being located at Utica, New York, and one at Decatur, Illinois, both of them having attained high rank in their calling.

Adolph Germann spent his boyhood days working on the home farm in Van Wert county, where he lived until he was nearly grown. While he had a comfortable home and never felt the pinch of poverty nor lacked the real essentials of life, he was from an early age dependent upon his own resources for advancement, and soon after passing through the district schools and getting such experience as he could on the home farm, he and a brother drove from Ohio to Miami county by horse and wagon, in March, 1877, and in the same summer did work as gardeners. In the fall of 1878 Mr. Germann began serving a three years' apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade with Jacob Theobald, one of the honored old citizens of Peru. When he had completed his apprenticeship he accepted employment with Mr. Theobald and continued in that way until the fall of 1892. It was in this way, by wage earnings and the steady processes of industry and thrift that he laid the basis for his independent career. In 1892 he established a business for himself as a carpenter and contractor, having Mr. Ernest A. Kessler as his partner for the first two years. Since then he has been in business alone. Mr. Germann in his work has established a reputation as a man who stands behind every bit of his work, is financially responsible, and gives the highest class of service to every contract for construction.



Mr. Germann is a Democrat in politics, and at the present time is a member of the township advisory board. He was married September 11, 1884, to Miss Mary F. Miller, a daughter of Jacob F. Miller, who is one of the old time merchants of Peru. Two sons have been born of this marriage, and seldom have two sons brought greater comfort or pride to their parents than these, who have already at almost the beginning of their career attained distinction and positions in life such as are awarded only to those possessing high talents and capabilities of the highest kind.

Albert F. O. Germann, the oldest of the brothers, was born February 18, 1886. He received the major portion of his common school education at St. John's Lutheran school, and was graduated from the Peru high school with the class of 1904. He secured a place in the Bunker Hill school in Peru township in the same year, as a teacher, and he served as township principal and high school teacher at Reserve in Butler township, in 1905. In the alternate periods between school work he attended Indiana University at Bloomington until he succeeded in being graduated "with high distinction," from the state university in 1909, with the degree of A. B. In that year he acted as teaching fellow in chemistry at the University of Indiana, and in 1910 was awarded the degree of Master of Arts from the same institution. In the fall of 1909 he was appointed assistant in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, and while at Madison pursued special studies that in 1910 won for him the degree of Master of Science. From the fall of 1910 to 1912 his time was spent in travel abroad and in study along special lines at the Universities of Geneva and Berlin, and his ability as a student and scholar of research was recognized by the University of Geneva in conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Physical Sciences. Since returning from his studies abroad he has become instructor in chemistry in Adelbert College of Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio. He is a member of the Indiana Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the honorary scholarship fraternity, Sigma Xi, the honorary scientific research fraternity, the American Chemical Society and other organizations.

Frank E. E. Germann, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Germann, was born on December 6, 1887. He was also a student in the local parochial schools and was graduated from the high school in 1906. For two years, following in about the same course pursued by his brother, he engaged in teaching school and then entered the University of Indiana, where he was graduated with distinction in the spring of 1911, being the recipient of the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in physics. During the summer term of 1910 he attended the University of Wisconsin, and in 1911 joined his brother abroad, taking up special studies at the Universities of Berlin in Germany, and Neuchâtel, Geneva, and Lausanne, in Switzerland. In 1912 he received an appointment as assistant in the laboratories of theoretical chemistry at the University of Geneva, an unusual honor for an American, and there he has already successfully completed the examinations leading to the degree of Doctor of Physical Sciences. His special researches have been on the vapor pressures and critical constants of liquid oxygen, the synthesis of pure nitrosyl chloride, and the micro-analysis of the rare gases. At Indiana University he was honored by election to Phi Beta Kappa, as well as to membership in numerous local organizations.

**JOHN TOMEY.** In a historical and biographical work of the nature of this publication, a more or less extended mention of the late John Tomey is properly entered as being of significant interest and importance, the record of his life being one that is worthy of perpetuation in this history. He was one of the native sons of Miami county, and he was one who never

swerved in his loyalty thereto, here finding ample scope for productive effort in connection with the agricultural industry and other lines of business enterprise. His entire life was passed within the borders of Miami county, and from the year 1907 until his death on June 15, 1913, he made his home in the city of Peru, where he was engaged in the teaming, storage and coal business, besides which he gave a general supervision to his fine homestead farm in Jefferson township. His father, a man of distinct individuality, alert mentality and sterling character, was one of the honored pioneers of the county, where his name is yet held in pleasing memory by all who came within the sphere of his kindly and genial influence.

John Tomey was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Peru township, this county, and the date of his birth was November 27, 1861. He was the last of a family of four children, of whom Bridget and Mary died when young, and Ellen became the wife of one Jeremiah Ginney and passed the closing years of her life in Peru, her one surviving child being a son named John. Matthew Tomey was the father of the late John Tomey, the principal subject of this family memoir, and he was born and reared in County Cork, Ireland, where he grew to manhood under the discipline of the farm and where the family record was like that of the immortal Lincoln, "the short and simple annals of the poor." He received the most meager of educational advantages, but with exceptional mental vitality and alertness he made good to a very marked degree this handicap of youth, so that he became a man of broad vision, well established opinions, and independent sentiments. In 1856, at the age of thirty years, he severed the ties that bound him to the fair old Emerald Isle and set forth to seek his fortunes in America, where he felt assured of receiving due rewards for the efforts he might put forth. Equipped with ambition and self reliance, but with possibilities limited at that time to such vocations as called only for physical labor, he turned his attention to such work as he could obtain, and it may be said to his credit that to the end of his mortal life, crowned with definite success, never did he abate his appreciation of the dignity and honor of honest toil. He placed true valuations upon men and had contempt only for the idler and the parasite. He remained for a brief interval in the city of New Orleans, where he found employment as a dock hand, and from the old Crescent city he soon made his way to Cincinnati, where he gained his initial experience in connection with railroad work. At that time, in 1857, the Wabash and the old Indianapolis, Pittsburg & Cincinnati Railroads were in process of construction through Indiana, and he secured employment in connection with that work, finally assuming a contract for the building of one mile of the Wabash line. It was under such conditions that he arrived in Miami county in 1857, and his judgment was shown by the investment of his earnings in forty acres of land in the northern part of Peru township—a tract with virtually no improvements, but one that offered a nucleus from which he evolved final independence and substantial prosperity. While identified with railroad work he came into possession of a horse, which he had taken as security for a debt, and in the spring of 1860 he located on his embryonic farm, where he made use of his horse to good effect, in the preliminary reclamation and cultivating of the place. In the winter of the same year was solemnized his marriage to Miss Anna Kavanaugh, who like himself, was a native of the Emerald Isle, and the two bravely faced the labors and problems that confronted them in wrestling sustenance and gradual profit from the little pioneer farm. The devoted wife and mother passed to the life eternal in 1867, and Mr. Tomey ever remained true to her memory, the while he made many sacrifices in order to give his children the best possible advantages and



opportunities, without counting it self-abnegation or sacrifice. He received his reward for it in later years, for his children gave to him the deepest filial solicitude and in his declining years surrounded him with devotion and tender care. This sturdy pioneer lived a life of earnest and unremitting industry, surmounting obstacles that must have discouraged one of less courage and determination, and by his very strength of purpose he finally made his way to the goal of substantial prosperity, his little farm of forty acres having been expanded to a valuable landed estate of three hundred and eighty-five acres, in Peru and Richland townships. When his wife died the eldest of their children was but six years of age, and he proved to the motherless little ones both a father and a mother, with the tenderness that is exemplified only in a strong and noble nature. He was a man of tenacious opinions, but was in no sense radical or intolerant, and his insistent optimism and generosity gained to him the friendship of those with whom he had come in contact in the various relations of life. His integrity was inflexible and his abiding Christian faith was shown in deeds as well as in words, with naught of assumption or bigotry. His word was as good as gold, and he had the implicit confidence of every person with whom he had dealings or other associations. He did not assume to suggest or regulate the views or conduct of others, but he was not vacillating in purpose or in opinions. For instance, his attitude in the matter of indulgence in spirituous liquors was summed up with characteristic categorical maxims touching upon the matter of temperance. In this connection his initial tenet of approval was for the man who could take a drink, and by force of character, refuse to take a second; his second choice was for the man, who to be on the side of safety, would of his own volition, wholly abstain from the use of liquor; and his third choice was the man who deemed it necessary to protect himself by taking the pledge. Mr. Tomey was a stalwart in the camp of the Democratic party and in the domain of public affairs he had a reason for the faith which he possessed, the while he was liberal and loyal in the support of measures and enterprises advanced for the general good of the community. Both he and his wife were most earnest and devout communicants of the Catholic church, and in all of the relations of life he demanded the approval of conscience for his every sentiment and action, a man true to the teachings of the great mother church of Christendom, in the faith of which he carefully reared his children and to such good effect that in later years they did not repart therefrom. This sterling pioneer, a valiant soldier in the militant army of the world's workers, passed from the stage of mortal life on the 15th of January, 1891, at the venerable age of seventy-one years, and his name and memory will not soon be forgotten in the county that so long represented his home, and in which he accounted well to himself and the world.

His son, the late John Tomey, who seven years ago sold the major part of his father's homestead, remained with the latter on the farm until the close of the father's life, and under most genial and mutually sympathetic relations the two were associated in its work and management for many years, the son gradually relieving the father of the heavier labors and responsibilities, with a full appreciation of the character and honest achievement of his honored sire, whose memory he continued to revere to the end of his days as that of a pure and noble man of the most intrinsic worth of character.

John Tomey gained his early educational training in the parochial and public schools, and as a citizen and business man he all his days well upheld the prestige of the honored name he bore. On the 28th day of September, 1886, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Ellen McMahon, and two daughters were born to them, both dying in infancy. Mrs. Tomey

passed to her long home on the 8th day of March, 1901. The son and husband found the old home with broken ties and sad memories, with the result that about eighteen months after the death of his wife he removed to the city of Peru, there engaging in business. Up to the time of his death he was successfully engaged in a joint teaming, storage and coal business, besides which he continued to give a general supervision to his fine farm.

In politics John Tomey was a staunch Democrat, and though he had no desire at any time for the honors or emoluments of political office, he ever manifested a deep interest in public affairs, especially those of a local order, and was always one who might be counted upon as a supporter of civic and material enterprises tending to foster the best interests of his home city and his native county. The county lost in him a citizen of the highest order, and one whose life left an indelible impress for good upon the communities wherein he had lived all his days. He was a zealous communicant of the Catholic church. Mr. Tomey was married the second time on May 3, 1905, when Miss Nellie Quinn, a daughter of John and Ellen (Moriarty) Quinn, of Kokomo, Indiana, became his wife. She survives her husband.

**SANFORD ELIAS ALTMAN.** In the life and career of Sanford Elias Altman is found a typical American success. Without the comforts and without the influences of a home, his boyhood was spent in a varied struggle against the typical adversities which beset a friendless youth. He finally perfected himself at the carpenter's trade, became a building contractor, spent more than forty years in that business in Miami county, and now for half a dozen years or more has been enjoying the fruits of a well spent life in his attractive farm homestead near Peru.

Sanford Elias Altman was born in the city of Columbus, Ohio, November 12, 1844. He is now the only surviving child of Elias and Elizabeth (Nichelson) Altman. Elias Altman, the father, was a soldier in the war against Mexico, during the forties, and died about 1849, only a year or so after his return. His widow again married, but the boyhood days of Sanford E. Altman were passed among strangers, and such homes as he found were only temporary and were accorded him more because of the value of his services than that of affection or family relations. He attained a very limited amount of schooling, and such as he did acquire was the fruit of the old fashioned subscription schools which were still maintained during his boyhood. When six months were still lacking from his twenty-first birthday, he began his independent career as a worker at the carpenter trade. He had not progressed very far in this occupation before he found how essential the principles of mathematics were to any progressive success in the trade. He therefore set himself vigorously to mastering all details of measurement and geometry and other branches of mathematics as giving practical use in the builder's trade. When he had mastered these difficulties, he set himself up as an independent contractor. During the forty-three years that he was in business in this line, he built numerous houses in Peru and many farm buildings in the county, and his work was always characterized by a thoroughness which kept him constantly employed. Since 1908 he has confined his attention to farming. Mr. Altman owns fifty-three and three quarters acres of land in Peru township, and he has improved and made this one of the fine farms of the locality.

In politics Mr. Altman is a Democrat, but has never aspired to political office. He was married November 28, 1867, to Anna M. Eagle, and to this marriage eight children have been born: Clara L., deceased; Emma, E., deceased; Charles, who died in infancy; William H., a farmer in Erie



township; Ida S., now the wife of Omer O. Butt, of Peru township; George M., a farmer of Erie township; Anna M., who married Samuel Tillett, and is now deceased; and Harry E., a resident of Indianapolis.

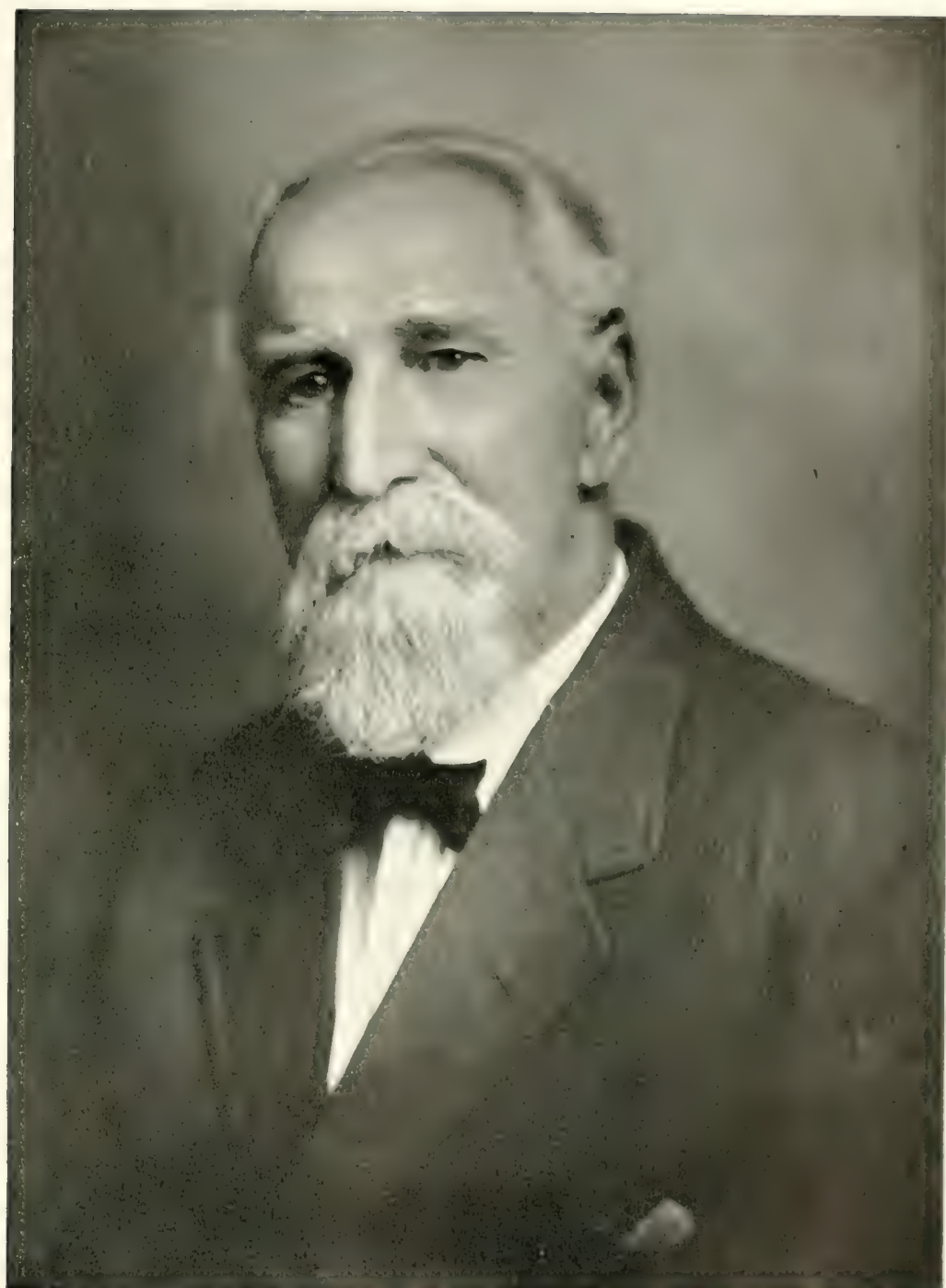
**WILLIAM GALEN BOONE.** Many of the pioneer families and their descendants have passed entirely out of Miami county, and as a matter of fact only comparatively few direct descendants are left to carry the name and enjoy the heritage of their pioneer forefathers. For that reason special distinction belongs to the few men and women who represent in the second or third generation the name of one who came to this county during the decade of the thirties and whose activities and influence during life were such as to distinguish him among the men of mark in his time.

William G. Boone of Peru township is one such man, and he himself is one of the older native sons of Miami county, and the days of his childhood were passed before a single railroad line had been completed through the county. William G. Boone was born near the site of his present home in Peru township, adjoining the city of Peru, September 21, 1844. His father, and the founder of the family name and fortunes in this vicinity was Jacob W. Boone, who was born in Ohio and was a blacksmith by trade. In Montgomery county, Ohio, he had married Christiana Rohrer, and in the decade of the thirties, he and his wife and two children came to Miami county. The elder Boone established in the village of Peru a blacksmith shop, and was one of the early workers in iron and the implements of the time, in this city. It is interesting to recall that some of his early customers were Indians, who brought to him their tomahawks which he made himself, and other implements to be sharpened and repaired. Jacob W. Boone subsequently preemptioned 200 acres of land from the government about two miles east of where Broadway is now located in Peru, and on that land on the outskirts of the village and somewhat up the Wabash valley and in the vicinity of the canal, he built a shop and catered to the wants of his customers, using his spare time for the clearing of the woods and bringing the land under cultivation. He spent his last years as a farmer in that locality. He and his wife were the parents of three children: Mary, who married Martin Myers, and is now deceased; John, who is married and lives near Loree, in this county; and William G. The father died about 1846, and his widow passed away September, 1890.

William G. Boone spent the first twelve years of his life in Peru township, but his mother then married Mr. Martin Myers, and the family moved to Wayne county. During his boyhood William G. Boone had only a common school education in the limited schools of that time, but subsequently made up for the deficiencies of his early education by entering Hanover College, from which he was graduated in 1875. After leaving college he engaged in teaching school for a number of years, for one term being a teacher in the high school at Richmond, Indiana. Failing health finally compelled him to give up this profession, and since 1881 he has resided on his farm of sixty acres adjoining Peru. Besides this property, Mr. Boone is owner of some real estate in the city of Peru.

On December 29, 1881, he married Miss Romanzo M. Tillett, oldest of the children of William Tillett, concerning whom a brief sketch will be found on other pages of this work. Mrs. Boone died in March, 1903. Mr. Boone in politics is a Democrat, and a member of the Masonic Order Lodge No. 5 of Cambridge City, Iowa, and he and his wife were members respectively of the Presbyterian and Baptist churches.

**ROBERT MILLER AND JOHN C. MILLER.** The fact of pioneer history which has often been imperfectly recognized is that the first settler of a



*John C. Miller*





locality, by his leadership, by his relations in family or friendly ties with later comers, and by his public spirit in guarding the moral integrity of his chosen community, often exercise a far-reaching and invaluable influence on the social and economic welfare of his home vicinity. An excellent example of this in Miami county was afforded by the career of Robert Miller, who was known throughout the county in pioneer days as "Uncle Bob."

Robert Miller was born in Scott county, Kentucky, September 16, 1806, and was a son of John Miller, a native of South Carolina. In 1818 the family moved to Fayette county, Indiana, and from there in 1835 Robert Miller came on horseback to Miami county. In Richland township, he entered a tract of land from the government. He built a two-room round-log house, which was typical of the old-time pioneer home, having a puncheon floor, a clap-board roof, a fire-place and a stick-and-mud chimney, with a loft above the principal rooms which was reached by a rude ladder. In 1837, having in the meantime returned to his family, he moved here as his permanent home, his household goods being drawn in wagons by oxen through an almost trackless forest. At that time his family consisted of himself, his wife, who before their marriage was Rebecca Cox, and four children. Robert Miller was industrious and an usual business manager, and in subsequent years acquired more than three thousand acres of land. The features of his career, which illustrate the facts mentioned in the first paragraph was his careful judgment in disposing of these land accumulations. He would sell a parcel of this land only to a reputable home-seeker, a man about whom he had no question as to his moral worth, and his business integrity. Thus, in time, was founded about his old home as a center the best community of industrious, God-fearing and worthy citizens of Miami county. In many other ways was Robert Miller one of the foremost men of his time, being a devout adherent of the Methodist church, through Col. Reyburn at Miamisport, Mr. Miller induced a Methodist "circuit-rider" to come to his place in 1837. At this Methodist meeting there were nineteen persons present and these founded, so far as known, the first Methodist church organization in Miami county, outside of the central town of Miamisport. Robert Miller was elected a joint representative to the state legislature from Wabash and Miami counties, and was also elected a member of the state senate.

The children of Robert Miller and wife were as follows: Henry C., Samuel C., Eliza A., Sarah E., Mary F., Richard K., John C., Mary F., James C., Clayton and Thomas C. Honored and respected for his many sterling qualities and his influential career of activity in this county, Robert Miller died on August 29, 1884, and his wife followed him on February 23, 1891.

An old and honored resident of Peru is John Crittenden Miller, one of the foregoing family of children. He was born in Richland county, this township, May 8, 1840, was reared to manhood on the parental farm, and attained his education in the locality of the old home. His first schooling was in a log house, and then in a frame building, each one probably being the first of its kind to have been erected in that district. Throughout the vigorous early period of his life, as also during later years, farming has been the chief occupation of Mr. Miller. He moved his home from the country to Peru in 1890, and has thus been a resident of this city for more than 23 years.

On February 13, 1861, he married Philena, daughter of Joseph and Delilah (Keever) Burke. Their three children are: Clarence G., who died in infancy; Nellie, wife of Frank Drumm; and Mary L., wife of William Robbins. The happy married life of more than forty-one years



was terminated with the death of Mrs. Miller on August 19, 1902. On September 15, 1903, Mr. Miller married Lucinda Wallace, widow of William Wallace. In politics Mr. Miller is a Republican, and has membership in the Methodist church. His career has been a credit to his native county, as has also that of every member of this family of Millers.

**OTTO L. FISHER.** To have shared in the productive energies and in the activities which create real prosperity in a county like Miami from the early years of its history to the present is a distinction both satisfying and a proper source of pride. In this satisfaction Mr. Fisher may have a general share, since he belongs to a third generation of a family identified with Miami county since the beginning of civilized things in this region, and has himself for some years been adding to the substantial welfare of his community.

Back in the pioneer days, his grandfather, Jonathan Fisher, came to this county when its lands were almost unbroken forest, and contributed his share to the development of this region. The next generation of the family was represented by John W. Fisher, father of Otto L. and John W. as well as by his wife, Sarah Skillman, both born in Miami county, being natives of Richland township. The Skillman family was like the Fishers, among the first pioneer settlers of the county, and further mention is made of them on other pages of this work. John W. Fisher, who was descended from German ancestry, is now living in Richland township, and had been one of the substantial citizens here for many years. He and his wife had seven children, of whom five survived.

Otto L. Fisher, who was born to his parents in Richland township, January 12, 1871, has always made Miami county his home. He was reared on the home farm in Richland township, and the common school education he received in boyhood was supplemented by a commercial course in the Northern Indiana Normal school at Valparaiso, which granted him a diploma in 1892. He continued to live with his parents until twenty-four years of age, during which time in connection with his farming he taught school in Miami county.

October 26, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary M. Richer, daughter of Christian and Martha (Wolf) Richer. Following this event he began farming on the old Richer homestead. In 1900 he bought his present farm of eighty-six acres on section eleven, in Peru township, and has resided here ever since. To Mr. Fisher and wife have been born three children, named Lois Velma, Ray Ellsworth and John Christian. Mr. Fisher is independent in politics, his policy being in all instances to vote for the man rather than the party. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church in Erie township. The homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Fisher is known as "The Locust Dale Stock Farm."

**JOSEPH SHROCK.** Coming into Miami county in 1847, at the age of fourteen and spending all his active lifetime within its borders, the late Joseph Shrock who died January 31, 1913, was a citizen of well balanced faculties, a worker who increased the talents given him by nature, and who left his community the better for his presence.

Joseph Shrock was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, August 28, 1833. The family was German in its origin, the grandfather having been born in Germany, whence he came to America, and located in Pennsylvania. In the latter state was born David Shrock, the father of Joseph.

David Shrock, who died in 1860, married Susanna Hostetler, whose people were among the pioneers of Miami county, and are appropriately referred to on other pages of this work.

The late Joseph Shrock lived in Ohio, the first fourteen years of his

life, and from his earliest youth was engaged in such duties of the home farm as his strength could perform, and at the same time he attended the local schools. In 1847 the family accomplished its migration to Miami county, locating on land in section eleven, Peru township. At that time there were few improved farms in all his locality, and the land occupied by the Shrock family was nearly all woods. Joseph Shrock gave his labors toward clearing up this place and during the winters for a number of years taught school.

On March 8, 1859, he married Caroline Working, whose parents, Jacob and Magdalene (Lower) Working, were natives of Germany, and were among the early settlers of Wabash county. For the greater part of his life after marrying, Mr. Shrock operated a saw mill on the home place and followed the trade of carpenter. He was not a farmer in the personal sense, although at the time of his death he owned nearly two hundred acres of land. He employed men to do the actual work of the farm, while his own energies were given to more important affairs. When he was about thirty-three years of age, he was elected a justice of the peace and his tenure of that office for about a period of forty-four years is one of the most remarkable official records in Miami county. His long service as such gave him the general appellation of Squire. In politics he was a Democrat, in religion a Methodist. For more than half a century he was active in church work, being one of the charter members of the old Skillman Chapel class, and for twenty-five years was a teacher in its Sunday school. The *Peru Sentinel*, issued February 8, 1913, appropriately and truthfully had this to say of the late Joseph Shrock: "He loved the bible, he loved the church, he loved his home, and his greatest desire was to live a righteous life before his neighbors." In many respects Mr. Shrock was a man ahead of his time. He had a better education than that of the average man and was an extensive reader. In his capacity of justice of the peace he acted as arbiter in numerous cases as well as the actual trial of cases. For his many sterling qualities, he commanded the respect of everyone regardless of religion or politics. He was laid to rest in the Shrock cemetery in Peru township.

Mr. and Mrs. Shrock were the parents of six children, namely: Laura Belle, the wife of Marshall H. Jefferson, a farmer of Peru township; Albert, who died in infancy; Clinton, who married Rosa Warsko, is a farmer of Peru township; Stella; Pearl; and Bertha, who is the wife of William Carlin, a farmer of Peru township.

**JAMES BLAIR.** It may be said that pioneers and pioneer life in Miami county no longer exist. The great progress and development of this section has transformed the wilderness to a center of civilization and a great agricultural producing section; the merciless passage of the years has gathered to their final rest all save a few of those courageous souls who intrepidly faced the dangers of an unknown country to hew a home for themselves and their loved ones from the primeval forest. Yet, in memory, these sturdy pioneers are not dead, for the work they accomplished, the great achievement that were theirs, will ever live in the minds of those who have followed them, and for whose sake they fought the battles of peace and braved countless dangers. Among the early settlers of Miami county, one who took his full share and ably and uncomplainingly performed his part in the work of clearing, burning brush, grubbing, splitting rails, planting and farming after the old-time methods, and who subsequently became known as one of the substantial men of his time, was the late James Blair, a native of New Athens, Ohio, born January 9, 1831. He was one of the two sons, (the other being William) born to the union of John Blair and Jane Brokaw, the former of whom was born in Scot-



land, June 13, 1795. When a young man John Blair emigrated to the United States, settling first in Ohio, where he was married, and in 1847 removed with his family to Miami county, Indiana, locating on a farm near the Cass county line. He entered land in section 23, Peru township, from the government, there erected a log cabin, and with the assistance of his sons cleared the property and transformed it into productive fields. He died at the home of his son, James, April 5, 1873, his widow surviving him only until July 1st of the same year.

Coming to Miami county as a lad of seventeen years, James Blair received his education in the primitive schools of his day, and was reared to habits of thrift, honesty and industry. He was married March 25, 1859, to Miss Lydia M. Marquiss, a daughter of Isaac and Martha (Holman) Marquiss. Mr. Marquiss was a native of Ohio, born March 27, 1805, and was married February 21, 1830, to Martha Holman, whose birth occurred November 20, 1814. He became one of the very first settlers of Miami county, and was one of the proprietors of the old town of Miamisport. A shoemaker by trade, he followed that vocation for some years, later operated the tan-yard at Miamisport with his father-in-law, and eventually located on section 19, in the western part of Peru township, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying December 3, 1862, his wife having passed away April 4, 1861. They were the parents of fourteen children.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Blair lived on the old home place for about eighteen years, and there all of their children, with the exception of the two youngest, were born. In 1877 they moved to section 19, Peru township, where Mr. Blair continued to industriously follow agricultural pursuits until his death, July 18, 1886. He was an energetic and hard-working man, and by perseverance and well-directed effort accumulated considerable means. Because of his kind heart and numerous acts of friendliness, he gained numerous friends, while his strict honesty and honorable dealing secured him a firmly-established position in the confidence and regard of all with whom he came in contact. A worthy example of the best order of pioneer citizenship, he will long be remembered as one whose example is eminently worthy of emulation by the coming generations.

To Mr. and Mrs. Blair there were born the following children: two who died in infancy; John M., a successful physician of Houston, Texas; Ada M., who is the wife of Dr. Walter A. Huff, of Peru; Carrie B., who is now Mrs. Harry Whistler, a resident of Oklahoma; Ida M., who became the wife of Edward Gallahan, of Jefferson township, Miami county, and died November 9, 1904; Colorado M., who is the widow of Newman Ferguson; Commodore L., who married Nora Evans, and died October 9, 1901, and whose wife passed away about two years later; James J. II., who was a twin brother of one who died in infancy, married Nellie, the daughter of Ed. H. Miller, and is a farmer of Peru township; Bethel A., who married Maud Bowman, and is a ranch owner in Texas; and Guy L., who married Blanche Dalzell, and is a legal practitioner of Houston, Texas.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Blair has resided on the old home place in Peru township. Like her husband she is widely known for her many charitable acts, and during her long residence here has formed a wide acquaintance and gained many warm and admiring friends.

GEORGE F. WILSON. On the cornerstone of the old Miami County Courthouse, a portrait representation of which appears in the history on other pages, was inscribed the name of George E. Wilson, as one of the county commissioners at the time the structure was put up. That hon-

ored old pioneer citizen was the grandfather of George F. Wilson of Erie township. The Wilson family has thus borne its honored part in affairs in Miami county from the early years of civilization and settlement. The father of George F. Wilson was also a county commissioner during his career.

George F. Wilson was born in Peru township of Miami county, November 5, 1859, a son of Absolom and grandson of George E. Wilson. The maiden name of the mother was Magdalene Fisher. The grandfather and father both came to Miami county during the early forties, and settled first in Peru township. Their home was in the midst of the woods, and the father lived there in a log cabin until he had prospered and was able to provide a better home. By hard toil he cleared off the trees from his land, and also cleared up the greater part of the land which the grandfather first settled on. George F. Wilson has also borne his share of this strenuous pioneer labor, and not only assisted his father in the work of clearing and grubbing, but when he started for himself he again went through that labor. George F. Wilson is a product of the old-time country schools of Peru township. When he was a boy school term lasted only about three months in the year, and he continued to attend as opportunity offered and the duties of the home farm would allow until he was twenty-one years of age. Like the majority of the boys of his time, he found it difficult to secure an education by regular attendance at school, and much of his knowledge has been acquired by practical experience in the world, rather than from books. In those days it was not uncommon for boys to still be studying the second reader when eighteen or twenty years of age.

After Mr. Wilson was married, he moved out of Miami county, and though he did not leave Indiana, he found a region which was as little developed and as much of a pioneer community as that in which his father had settled many years before. Mr. Wilson was married in 1882 to Emma J. Butt, a daughter of Elias and Mary Butt. Seven children were born to their marriage as follows: Lena B.; Mary J., who married Walker Casper; Nellie May; Otto G.; Dora E.; Lelah F.; and Allie B.

Mr. Wilson and his young wife moved to Pulaski county, Indiana, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which there was not a single building, nor were there fences, nor had a single furrow been turned by the plow. On that virgin land, mostly covered with timber, he started the hard task of developing a homestead. Year after year he advanced the boundaries of his cultivated fields, and finally had the entire tract under cultivation, had it improved with good buildings, and fences, had the lowlands drained by tiling, and when he had thus brought it to the condition of a profitable homestead he sold out at a sum which represented a nice profit for his many years of labor. He then returned to Miami county, and bought the farm on which he now resides of ninety-five acres. Here again he has applied his industry to the improvement of his place, and he has succeeded in making it a model farm. Among other improvements he has erected a new barn, has built many strong fences, and all the improvements except the residence has been put there through his own efforts. Mr. Wilson may be properly called a self-made man, although he inherited one thousand dollars, and thus had capital enough to start on, but all the rest of his property has come through his own hard work, with the capable assistance of his wife. Mr. Wilson is a member of the Horse Thief Association of Miami county, and belongs to the Methodist church. His father was also an active member of the Methodist faith, while his mother was a German Baptist.



**PHILLIP STRUBLE.** One of the most prominent families of Miami county has been that of Struble located here since pioneer times, and whose various members have been honored and successful as farmers, as business men and public spirited citizens. In this pioneer family was Phillip Struble, who died many years ago, and who was the father of Mrs. Alice M. Reynolds, who is now spending her later years in a beautiful home in Peru.

Phillip Struble was a native of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, born about the year 1812. He was a son of John and Elizabeth Struble. He received his education in his native country, and there also learned the trade of machinist. About 1844 he immigrated with other members of the family to America, and for a time resided in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he followed his trade and was advanced to the position of foreman. His father had previously located on a farm in Washington township of Miami county. In 1851 Phillip Struble and his own family came out to Miami county, making a large part of the journey by canal, since at that time there were no railroads through Miami county and the old Wabash Canal was the principle mode of transportation. Phillip Struble then located in Washington township, and followed the occupation of a farmer until his death there in 1855. His parents also found final resting place in Miami county. His wife subsequently married Joseph Humphrey, and spent the remainder of her days in Indianapolis. Phillip Struble and wife were the parents of nine children, and the four daughters now living are Mrs. Jennie Trull, Mrs. James Baker, Mrs. Katie E. Malmborg, and Mrs. Mary Alice Reynolds.

**GEORGE WARREN REYNOLDS, M. D.** On October 12, 1872, Miss Mary Alice Struble, daughter of Phillip Struble, above mentioned, was married to Dr. George Warren Reynolds. Dr. Reynolds was for many years one of the most eminent physicians of Chicago, and he and his wife were among the acknowledged social leaders of that city. The medical profession of Chicago lost one of its ablest and best loved members in the death of Dr. Reynolds, which occurred at his home on Washington Boulevard in Chicago, October 4, 1908.

Dr. Reynolds was born in New York State at Buffalo, on February 22, 1842, a son of George Warren and Mary (Hughes) Reynolds. He had already taken up the study of medicine, but when the war came on, he enlisted from New York State, and on being sent to the front was assigned as a steward in the Union hospital at Knoxville, Tennessee. He remained in active service until the close of the war, for three years, being mustered out in 1865. His older brother was General John F. Reynolds, who lost his life on the battle field of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. After the war Dr. Reynolds continued the study of medicine and was graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1872. He then located for practice in Chicago, and acquired a position hardly second among his contemporaries. For a number of years he was professor of physical diagnosis and diseases of the chest in the Rush Medical College. Dr. Reynolds was as well known in social and fraternal circles as in his profession. He was a thirty-second degree Mason, was active in the Grand Army of the Republic, was a member of the Sons of New York Club, and affiliated with the Order of Foresters, the Knights and Ladies of Honor and the Good Templars. He had membership in the Fox River Valley Medical Society, and was president of the Lake View Building & Loan Association for eighteen years. Dr. Reynolds and wife had two children, but both died in infancy.

The body of Dr. Reynolds was brought to Peru for interment, and







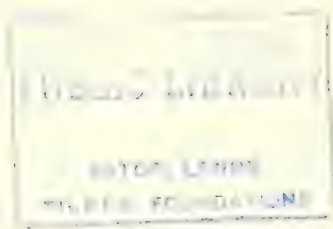
“REYNOLDS REST”  
RESIDENCE OF MRS. GEORGE W. REYNOLDS, MIAMI COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1913



*Dr. George W. Reynolds*

*Mrs. George W. Reynolds*





he now rests in the beautiful cemetery near this city. A monument of white Carrara marble, sculptured in Italy, and procured by Mrs. Reynolds, now marks the site of the family lot in Peru.

Since her husband's death, Mrs. Reynolds has established at 582 W. Main Street in Peru, the beautiful home known as Reynolds Rest, this place being opened on April 14, 1910. Mrs. Reynolds was born September 25, 1855, at the corner of Fifth and Hood Streets in Peru in the old Struble home, a daughter of Phillip and Barbara (Friesaunse) Struble. Among the other reminders of the Struble family in this county was the old Struble school house a noted center of social and other gatherings in Washington township in its time and named for the Struble family. Mrs. Reynolds is a cousin of John and George Struble and Melkie Struble, and of Mrs. Barbara Daniels, all of whom are prominent families of Washington township. She was also a cousin of Jacob Betsner, formerly a well known grocery man of Peru. She is also a cousin of Sister Rose Cecile of St. Mary of the Woods at Terre Haute. Mrs. Reynolds was reared in Indianapolis, and after her marriage moved to Chicago, where she and her husband had a beautiful home on Washington Boulevard. In Chicago Mrs. Reynolds was well known as a club woman, was an officer in Lady Washington Chapter No. 28, Order Eastern Star of which Chapter she was a life member, and also belonged to the Chicago Woman's Club, the West Side Literary Club, the Sons of New York Club, and was connected with the activities of Hull House and an associate in charitable work with Miss Jane Addams. She was familiarly known as Mrs. Dr. Reynolds since she was an assistant to her husband in his medical profession and was his constant companion. Dr. Reynolds was noted for driving fast horses and elegant equipages and both he and his wife were fond of horseback riding. The Reynolds home was noted as a social center and place of entertainment for the best social circles of Chicago. They moved in the same social sphere with Mrs. Potter Palmer, who since the death of Dr. Reynolds has honored Mrs. Reynolds with a ticket to the Charity Ball of 1909. Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds were both exceedingly hospitable and knew the art of entertaining to perfection. Mrs. Reynolds had considerable skill as a musician, had a trained voice for singing and both she and her husband were fond of dancing. She frequently won honors as a euchre player and possesses some sixty first prizes won in the various clubs of which she was a member.

Mrs. Reynolds had the opportunity and the taste for enjoying world travel. She possesses the faculty of humor, and tells many interesting anecdotes and reminiscences from various journeys around the world. She first toured the globe in 1896, and has been on every great body of water on the earth's surface, and has never been seasick. At one time she was on a Pacific Ocean steamer which caught fire and has had many other alarming experiences during her journies on land and on sea. In 1896 on a trip to England, she was at a banquet presided over by the Prince of Wales, afterward King Edward of England, and was also received by Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. She has visited nearly all the European Royal palaces including the Vatican at Rome, and greeted the late Pope Leo XIII, and she was also a visitor in the palace of the late President Porfirio Diaz in the City of Mexico. She has attended receptions and has met the great public leaders of America, including President and Mrs. Cleveland, President Harrison, William McKinley and Mrs. McKinley, and also ex-Presidents Roosevelt and Taft and their wives. On coming nearer home, Mrs. Reynolds recalls an event which in years to come will be considered an historical occasion worthy of remembrance, the dedication of Peru's new \$300,000 court



house when Governor (now Vice-President) Marshall, presided over the ceremonies. This dedication occurred on April 6, 1911. Mrs. Reynolds has now returned to her native city to spend the evening of an eventful life, and here enjoys the kindly esteem and admiration of the best people of the city.

FRANKLIN K. McELHENY. Miami county at the time of this writing is signally favored in the personnel of its corps of executive officials, who are ordering its affairs with ability and fidelity, and one of the valued and popular administrative officers of the county is Mr. McElheny, who is serving as county auditor, of which position he has been the incumbent since 1910. He is known as one of the liberal and progressive citizens of Peru and had been for a number of years closely identified with the newspaper business in this thriving little city, where he is still one of the owners and publishers of the *Miami County Sentinel*.

Mr. McElheny claims the old Hawkeye state as the place of his nativity but is a scion of a family whose name became identified with civic and industrial affairs in Indiana in an early day. He was born at Mount Pleasant in Henry county, Iowa, on the 2d of November, 1861, and was the fourth in order of birth in a family of six children, of whom three are now living. He is a son of Thomas K. and Melvina (Woods) McElheny, the former of whom was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, and the latter in Stark county, Ohio. Thomas K. McElheny was a child of about one year at the time of the family removal from Ohio to Carroll county, and later the family home was established in Cass county, where he was reared to manhood, received a good common-school education and learned the carpenter's trade, in which he became a skilled workman. As a young man he engaged in the work of his trade at Delphi, Carroll county, where his marriage occurred, and after assisting in the erection of the county court house in that town he went to Henry county, Iowa, where he aided in the erection of the buildings of the state insane asylum at Mount Pleasant. In 1862 he returned with his family to Delphi, Indiana, where he continued his successful work as a contractor and builder until 1869, as did he later, for four years at Rochester, the judicial center of Fulton county. In 1873 he established his home at Peru, capital of Miami county, and here he continued as one of the representative contractors and builders of this section of the state for many years, with high reputation for integrity and stability of purpose and for civic loyalty of the highest order. He was a stalwart in the camp of the Democratic party and served six years as township trustee of Peru township. He was an active and valued member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and served many years as treasurer of the same. His religious views were in accord with the tenets of the Presbyterian church, though he was not formally identified with any religious organization. He passed to the life eternal on the 25th of January, 1909, secure in the unqualified esteem of the community which had represented his home for more than thirty-five years. His widow, now venerable in years, still resides in Peru, and is held in affectionate regard by all who have come within the compass of her gracious and kindly influence.

The present auditor of Miami county was an infant at the time of his parents' return to Indiana, and within the gracious borders of the fine old Hoosier state he has continued to maintain his abode during the long intervening years, which have been marked by worthy accomplishment on his part. He gained his initial educational discipline in the public schools of Delphi and Rochester and was in his twelfth year at the time of the family removal to Peru, where he has since maintained his home and where his unequivocal vantage-place in general confidence and esteem

shows that he has fully measured up to the demands of the metewand of popular approbation. He availed himself of the advantages of the public schools of Peru and at the age of fifteen years he began working in the factory of the old Howe Sewing Machine Company, which at that time represented the leading industrial enterprise of Miami county. Later he worked in other factories and shops. In 1878 Mr. McElheny entered upon an apprenticeship to the "art preservative of all arts," in the office of the *Peru Republican*, and there he acquired facility as a compositor, in both newspaper and job work—a discipline that has consistently been termed equivalent to a liberal education. He continued to devote himself primarily to work at the printer's trade until 1899 when he acquired an interest in the *Miami County Sentinel*, in the mechanical work of the office of which he continued to assist, as did he later in that of the editorial department.

He is still one of the owners of the plant and business of the *Sentinel* and his services in connection with the paper have been potent in bringing the same up to a high standard. The *Sentinel* is issued on Wednesday and Saturday of each week, as a six-column quarto; is an effective exponent of local news and interests; has an excellent circulation; received a representative advertising patronage; and is a staunch advocate of the cause of the Democratic party. The plant is well equipped in both its newspaper and job departments and Mr. McElheny still continues to give a general supervision to its affairs.

A leader in the local ranks of the Democratic party, Mr. McElheny made his second appearance as a candidate for public office in 1910, when he was made the nominee of his party for the position of county auditor, to which he was elected, by a gratifying majority, in November of that year. He has given a most circumspect and efficient administration of this important office, which touches all departments of the county government, and his service has met with distinctive popular approval. He has a wide circle of friends in his home county, is one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of Peru, and here he is affiliated with the lodge and chapter bodies of the Masonic fraternity, as well as with the Knights of Pythias and the Loyal Order of Moose.

A red-letter day in the life history of Mr. McElheny was January 31, 1894, for then was solemnized his marriage to Miss Margaret A. McLaughlin, of Peru, who has assisted in making the family home one of ideal order and who is a popular figure in the social activities of her home city. Mr. and Mrs. McElheny have four children—Louise, Robert, Anna and Richard.

Mrs. McElheny is a native of Decatur county, Indiana, where she was born July 19, 1867, a daughter of Thomas and Ann (Cuff) McLaughlin, natives of the Emerald Isle. Mrs. McElheny was educated in the common schools and she has been an able assistant to her husband in the rearing of their children as well as in counsel and advice in the establishing of their happy home. They are giving their children the benefits of a good education. The daughter Louise was graduated with the class of 1913 from the Peru High School and Robert and Anna are still students in the high school. Richard the youngest, is in the sixth grade of the public school.

CHARLES H. BROWNELL, president of the Citizens' National Bank of Peru, Indiana, was born in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, on the 2d of June, 1847, and is a son of Abner C. and Eliza Smith Brownell. The father was prominently identified with business activities in Cleveland until 1857, when he came with his family to Peru, Indiana, and here he was for some time associated with his father-in-law, Jesse Smith, in the distilling business. He was a man of much initiative and constructive ability



and soon gained a position of prominence in connection with the business activities of Miami county. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens' National Bank in 1871, this institution having been the successor of the private banking house of Bonds, Hogland & Company. He attained a large and worthy success and was one of the honored and influential citizens of this section of the state at the time of his death, which occurred in 1878. He was a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and prior to coming to Indiana he had served as mayor of the city of Cleveland, Ohio. He was about sixty-five years of age at the time of his death, and of his children, one son and one daughter are now living.

In the public schools of his native city Charles H. Brownell gained his very early training, and he was but ten years of age when came the family removal to Peru, Indiana, where he has since that time maintained his home, save for a brief interval passed in the early part of his life in travel and in residence in Indianapolis. In Peru he continued to attend the public schools until he was matriculated in Amherst College, from which he was graduated in 1871, after which he spent a year and a half in travel in European countries. During that time he gave special attention to the subject of languages, and upon his return he read law under the direction of Hon. R. P. Effinger of Peru. In the fall of 1873 he entered the Columbia Law School in New York, from which he was graduated in 1875. For the ensuing three years Mr. Brownell was in the office of Baker, Hurd & Hendricks in Indianapolis, and the death of his father in 1878 necessitated his return to Peru. It was then that Mr. Brownell abandoned the practice of law and took up the various business interests of his deceased father. In 1882 he became vice-president of the Citizens' National Bank with which the elder Brownell had long been associated, and in 1883 he succeeded Dr. C. Darwin as president of the bank, which position he still holds. Mr. Brownell has also been a director of the National Bank of Indianapolis for many years, and also of the Union Trust Company of that city, so that banking and matters of finance generally, occupy the major part of his time and attention. He was one of the promoters and organizers of the Wabash Valley Trust Company, of which he has served as vice-president since its organization.

Mr. Brownell is interested in the manufacturing activities of the city, and has always taken an active part in the promotion of railroad interests that would result beneficially to Peru, his efforts having been influential in the acquisition of many manufacturing enterprises of the city.

In 1882 Mr. Brownell was married to Miss Augusta P. Erhardt, who was born in New York City and who came to Peru at an early age. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brownell, Carrie, who is the wife of Rev. Edward P. Averill, former rector of Trinity church in Peru, and now rector of a church at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Emma L., who married Robert A. Wason, of Delphi, an honored and talented member of Indiana's brilliant corps of authors.

**JOHN H. FIDLER.** The owner of a fine landed estate of about five hundred acres, in Cass and Miami townships, Mr. Fidler has been a resident of Miami county since 1905 and has long been recognized as one of the most vigorous and successful representatives of the agricultural and stock-growing industries in this section of his native state. After many years of earnest and fruitful endeavor, he is now living virtually retired in the city of Peru, where he owns an attractive home, and he still gives a general supervision to the operation of his valuable farm property. He is a scion of a family whose name has been worthily linked with the annals of Indiana history since the early pioneer days, the period thus represented being fully eighty years. Mr. Fidler is known as one of the stead-

fast and upright citizens of Miami county and as one who has ever done his part in the furtherance of social and industrial advancement, the while he has impregnable vantage-ground in popular esteem.

Mr. Fidler was born on the old homestead farm of the family, in Miami township, Cass county, Indiana, on the 19th of October, 1861, and was the fourth in order of birth of the six children of Jesse and Melinda J. (Helvie) Fidler, four others of the children still surviving the honored parents. Jesse Fidler was born in Pennsylvania and was a lad of about ten years at the time of the family removal to Cass county, Indiana, in 1832. Settlement was made in the midst of the forest wilderness, about one-fourth mile distant from the present village of Lewisburg, in Miami township. At that time the white settlers were few and Indians were far more in evidence, the while the pioneers depended upon the plentiful wild game in supplying the family larders, it having often been possible to shoot deer from the doorsteps of the primitive log-cabin homes. The father of Jesse Fidler entered claim to a tract of government land and essayed the herculean task of reclaiming a productive farm from the virgin wilds. The land thus secured remained in the possession of his descendants until within the second decade of the twentieth century, and the name of Fidler was closely identified with the initial stages of development and progress in Cass county, as well as in the later years of its opulent prosperity. Representatives of the family in the various generations kept pace with the march of progress and thus aided in the marvelous transformation of a forest wilderness into a populous county of beautiful farms, and thriving villages and cities. The tales of the pioneer days have often been told and there is no need in this article to revert to the trials and vicissitudes endured by the members of the Fidler family when they thus courageously established a home in a new country and set themselves vigorously to the arduous toil and manifold responsibilities which ever are the portion of the pioneer under such conditions. Jesse Fidler, a man of unassuming worth of character, of excellent mental gifts and of untiring industry, acquired a competency through his well ordered endeavors in connection with the great basic industry of agriculture, and he continued to reside on his old homestead in Cass county until his death. He passed to his reward in the fulness of years and in the high regard of all who knew him, and his name merits place on the roster of the honored pioneers who have done their part in the development and upbuilding of a great state. He was one of the organizers of the Pipe Creek Christian church, and of the same he and his wife continued zealous and valued members until their death.

Reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, John H. Fidler was not denied the closest and most arduous "communion with nature in her visible forms," and he waxed strong in mental and physical powers under the conditions and influences that compassed the days of his childhood and youth. His early educational advantages were those of the district school, and this training was supplemented by a course in the Northern Indiana Normal School, now known as Valparaiso University, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1886. Thus well equipped for the work of the pedagogic profession, he devoted his attention to teaching in a district school during the winter of 1886-7, and since that time he has found it expedient and a matter of personal satisfaction and profit to accord unwavering allegiance to the industries of agriculture and stock-growing, of which he has been a most alert and progressive representative and in connection with which he is now the owner of a finely improved and valuable landed estate of about five hundred acres, in Miami and Jefferson townships, Miami and Cass counties. In the midst of his unremitting application in this important field of endeavor



he has shown a deep and loyal interest in those agencies and influences which tend to foster the general welfare, and while he has manifested no aspiration for public office he has been a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, so that he views with unmixed complacency the results of the national election of November, 1912. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and was reared in the faith of the Christian church, of which his wife is a zealous member and to the support of which he makes liberal contribution.

On the 12th of February, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Fidler to Miss Olive S. Newman, who was born and reared in Miami county and who is a daughter of Thomas I. Newman, a well known and highly esteemed citizen of the county, where his father, Samuel K. Newman, was a pioneer settler and a man of marked influence in local affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Fidler became the parents of five children, Bertha, who died at the age of four years; William, who died when two years of age; a son who died in infancy, unnamed; and Ocal and Katharine, who remain at the parental home.

ELIAS BUTT. Sixty-eight years have passed since the Butt family came to Miami county, and Elias Butt has been a resident of the county all these years from the time he was fourteen years of age, and has witnessed and borne a part in every important era of the county's development.

Elias Butt, one of the few old settlers yet remaining, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, May 25, 1831. He was one of a family of eleven children, three of whom are now living, nine sons and two daughters, whose parents were William and Effie (McIntyre) Butt. William Butt was a farmer, and he followed that occupation all his life. In 1833 he brought his family to Allen county, Indiana, settling in the woods about seven miles northeast of Fort Wayne. There remained the family home for twelve years, and in 1845, in order to procure more land for his growing family of children at a less price, the father traded his homestead in Allen county, for four hundred and eighty acres of land in Erie township of Miami county. Only about thirteen acres of this place had been cleared, and on the land stood a small brick house, and the tradition is that this structure was put up by the Indians, although its exact history cannot be ascertained. William Butt lived in that house for a time until he was able to erect a two story hewed log house. When the family took up its residence in Miami county, the country all about them contained very few settlers, and nearly every home was isolated by a wide stretch of forest or prairie land from its nearest neighbor. Flour and lumber mills were so scarce that the settlers from their neighborhood frequently took their sacks of corn on horseback as far as Wabash to get it ground.

During the early years of his residence William Butt found it more profitable to lease a portion of his land to other settlers; he was a hard worker and industrious citizen, one who applied his energies to toil early and late, and in the course of a few years had brought his large estate to a point of thorough improvement and cultivation. In this way he provided a home and means for his family. He was a Democrat in politics, and his practical good points enabled him to give service of exceptional value in the office of township trustee, and other positions of trust. He commanded universal respect because of his sturdy honesty, his rugged self respect, and his views that every man should live his life according to the dictates of his conscience. His death occurred in 1869, his wife having passed away in 1856.

The younger generation of citizens in Miami county have little conception of the environments and the economic and social conditions in







*Geo. C. Miller*

which such a citizen as Elias Butt spent his youth. He participated in all the hard work of clearing the woods, grubbing out the stumps and brush, and in sewing, planting and harvesting the crops according to the primitive methods and with the crude machinery which were then employed. Amid such conditions it is not strange that his early education was limited, but his common practical sense has enabled him to accumulate over fifteen hundred acres of land, considerable property in Peru, and wealth in other forms sufficient for him to be reckoned one of the most substantial men of Miami county.

When such a man has so much to show in the way of material accomplishments it is a feature which seems to crown his career when he accords as does Mr. Butt, much of the credit for this success to his wife and the companion of most of his years. Mrs. Butt has been his counselor and trusted adviser for more than half a century and their married life is one of the most interesting facts of brief biography. Mr. Butt was married August 26, 1860, to Mary Ann Waltz, and their eight children were named as follows: Douglas M., Emma Jane, William A., Jennie Annie, now deceased; Mary Belle, Omar O., and Dora May and Cora May, twins. All but one of these children are living and all married and residing on their own home places in the immediate neighborhood.

Mr. Butt is a Democrat in politics, but his life has been too busy for him to devote any of his time to party politics, beyond casting his vote and giving his influence for good local government. He has contributed largely from his means in the support of all laudable public enterprise, regardless of whether it affected him personally or not. A member of no church organization, he has helped to build and improve many; a man of limited education, he always aids educational movements; a man independent, he has liberally provided for his children, and has extended material to those less fortunate than himself. More than this could not be spoken of any resident of Miami county, and such citizenship is of itself a splendid contribution to the welfare of Miami county.

GEORGE C. MILLER. The loyalty of Mr. Miller to the fine old Hoosier commonwealth is of the strongest type, and this attitude is fully justified, for he is a native of the state and a representative of one of its sterling pioneer families, and has here found ample opportunity for the attainment of large and worthy success along normal lines of business enterprise. He has been a resident of Peru, the judicial center of Miami county, for more than half a century and has long been numbered among its leading merchants and most liberal and public-spirited citizens. He is still active in business affairs, in which his associations are most gratifying, as he claims as his valued coadjutors in the conducting of a large and well equipped general store his three sons, who are well upholding the high prestige of the family name both in the field of local business enterprise and as progressive citizens of sterling character.

At Logansport, Cass county, Indiana, George C. Miller was born on the 2d of January, 1845, and he thus became a slightly belated New Year's arrival in the family home. He is a son of John L. and Mary (Long) Miller, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Delaware. John L. Miller was one of the pioneer merchants and influential citizens of Logansport, and had much to do with its early development and upbuilding, the embryonic city having been even at that time an important industrial and commercial center, with effective transportation facilities afforded by the old canal, the service of which was of important order before the construction of railroad lines. He was an alert and enterprising man of affairs and this is measureably



indicated by the fact that he manufactured and placed in operation the first wool-carding machines in Cass county. He died about the year 1849, and his devoted wife survived him by about fifteen years, during which she nobly cared for and reared her two sons, the only daughter having died in infancy. E. L. Miller, the elder of the sons, is likewise one of the honored citizens of Peru and his sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

George C. Miller was about four years of age at the time of his father's death and was about eighteen years old when his mother passed away. As a boy he came to Peru, where he lived in turn in the homes of Moses Mercer and David Charter, the while he was afforded the advantages of the common schools, including the high school. In 1860 he became a permanent resident of Peru, where he continued to attend school about one year, and in 1862 he assumed the position of clerk in the store of Elbert H. Shirk, one of the pioneer merchants of the town. He gained valuable experience and a thorough knowledge of the details of the mercantile business, and in 1867 he was given the active management of the store, as Mr. Shirk virtually retired from the personal supervision of the business at that time. In the meanwhile Wilson W. Killgore, who had been engaged in the hardware business, formed a partnership with Mr. Shirk under the firm name of Killgore & Shirk, and the two establishments were united, the scope of the enterprise thus including both dry goods and hardware. In 1873 Mr. Miller acquired a third interest in the business, whereupon the firm name was changed to Killgore, Shirk & Co. About 1880 Mr. Shirk purchased the interest of Mr. Killgore and transferred the same to his son, Milton Shirk, this change being attended with the altering of the firm name to Shirk & Miller. Upon the death of E. H. Shirk, in 1887, the business was continued by Milton Shirk, the son, and by Mr. Miller, the estate of the deceased member of the firm being still represented. Under these conditions the large and prosperous enterprise was conducted until 1902, when Mr. Miller sold his interest and retired from the firm. In the following year he became associated with his three elder sons in the establishing of a large and finely appointed general department store, at 71-73 South Broadway, and here the firm of George C. Miller & Sons has built up a most substantial and prosperous business, the success of which has been signally fostered by the high reputation long maintained by the father in connection with business activities in Miami county. The establishment is one of the foremost in Peru and draws its trade from the fine section of country normally tributary to the thriving little city. Mr. Miller is the owner of over 500 acres of the finest farming land in Miami county, over which graze fine Jersey cattle. He gives a great deal of attention to his stock and is very successful as a stockman and farmer.

Though giving the closest attention to his business affairs during the long years of a most earnest and effective career, Mr. Miller has not hedged himself in with purely personal interests, but has shown himself broad-minded and loyal as a citizen—one ever ready to do his part in the furtherance of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. In politics he accords a staunch allegiance to the Republican party, and while he has not been imbued with ambition for public office he was given significant evidence of popular confidence and esteem when, in 1898, he was elected representative of the Howard and Miami district in the state senate. He proved a most zealous and faithful member of the deliberative body of the state legislature, and gave most effective service during both sessions of the same during his term, having been chairman of two committees of the senate and a member of the important finance committee. He is affiliated with the Masonic

fraternity and both he and his wife are representative members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Peru.

In the year 1870, on March 15th, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Miller to Miss Ella Leebrick, of Wayne county, this state, and they have four sons, all of whom are associated with their father in business. Their names are here entered in respective order of birth: Harry L., Charles W., Elbert S. and George C.

JOHN B. WILSON. As the pages of this history of Miami county prove, the actual development and permanent settlement within the present county boundaries began only with the decade of the thirties. A little more than eighty years has therefore passed since the first rude settlements were planted, the first clearings made, and civilized life began in this region. The career of Mr. John B. Wilson of Peru township, bears a noteworthy relation to this time, since he lived out almost the complete span of his seventy-eight years within the limits of this county. He lacked but a year of having been a native of Miami county. When he was brought here a year old the Indians were still inhabiting this region, and the county had been organized only a short while. In the different periods of his individual life occurred every noteworthy improvement and event that deserved telling in a history of Miami county.

John B. Wilson was a native of Pendleton county, Virginia, where he was born October 25, 1835. His parents, George and Magdalena (Hiner) Wilson, in 1836 came west from Virginia, in company with two other families, those of William Wilson and John Hiner. They drove through with three teams, one a five-horse team and the other two two-horse teams, these horses drawing old-fashioned covered wagons in the true pioneer style. The party consisted of eighteen persons. After a journey of six weeks, they reached Miami county. These three families bought what was known as "canal land" in the eastern part of Peru township, on "Seven-Mile Prairie." They built cabins there, and experienced all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. The older generation passed the remainder of their lives in this vicinity and their descendants have become scattered, some of them being still residents in Miami county, and others having found homes and prosperity in other sections of the country.

George Wilson, the father, was a man of superior education for the time, and in Virginia had taught school. After coming to Miami county he soon became identified prominently with the public life of the county and was recognized as a man whose judgment and influence were very valuable to the success of any public undertakings. He served in various local positions of honor and trust, and when the court house preceding the present magnificent building was built, George Wilson was one of the county commissioners. In politics he was a Democrat and a Methodist in religion. He and his wife were the parents of five sons and five daughters, a fine family of whom only one son and two daughters now live. George Wilson died in 1869, and his wife many years afterwards.

John B. Wilson was brought by his parents when one year of age to Miami county, and here he grew up amid the pioneer conditions. His educational opportunities were exceedingly limited, since nearly twenty years had passed before Indiana as a state had anything resembling a free public school system. At one time he had to walk five miles over the prairie and through the woods in order to reach the subscription school supported by the people of his community. He remained at home until twenty-seven years of age, and on December 11, 1862, married Miss Mary J. Phillebaum, a daughter of Samuel and Sophia (Myers) Phillebaum, who came from Ohio to Miami county, Indiana, in 1844.



After his marriage Mr. Wilson began farming on his own account, and this has been his regular occupation throughout life, although he has also for different lengths of time attended to other affairs. For six years he operated a flour mill on the Eel river in Jefferson township, and for one year was employed in the woolen mill at Peru. He became the owner of nearly three hundred acres of fine agricultural land in Peru and Erie townships, and was known as one of the county's best farmers.

He and his wife had eight children, namely: Alice, now Mrs. Elmer E. Bell of Peru; Dora, widow of Michael Dice; Samuel, a resident of Cass county; Voris, a farmer of Erie township; Earl, who is a farmer at Peru township; Ellen W., now Mrs. Ralph Otiker; and John and Jennie, both deceased. Mrs. Wilson is a native of Montgomery county, Ohio, born January 13, 1843, and she was but a child when she came to Miami county. She was educated in the common schools and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Peru, Indiana. She is living at the homestead. Mr. Wilson was a Democrat in politics, but in no measure had he ever been a strict party man or one who sought office. He more frequently voted for the man regardless of party affiliations, and his life was passed in hard work, so that he never aspired to political preferment for himself. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows from 1868. Mr. Wilson passed to the life beyond May 31, 1913, and commemorating the death of this honored pioneer of Miami county the following lines appeared in a local periodical:

"John B. Wilson died at his home one mile east of the city limits Saturday morning at 11:45 o'clock, after an illness of over a year from an ulcerated stomach. He was a well known and prosperous farmer and a pioneer of Miami county, having lived here for the past seventy-five years. He was seventy-seven years, seven months and six days of age at the time of his death.

"He is survived by a host of relatives and friends who mourn his departure. He leaves a widow, Mary, three sons, Vogue Wilson of Erie township, Sam Wilson of Lewisburg and Earl Wilson, who resides at the home place, three daughters, Mrs. Elmer E. Bell, Mrs. Dora Dice of Peru and Mrs. Ralph Otiker of east of Peru and two sisters, Mrs. Cynthia Andrews of Peru and Mrs. Catharine Ewing of Elberton, Washington. Besides these he is survived by sixteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

"The funeral services were held at the Wilson residence Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, with Rev. Dr. T. M. Guild, pastor of the Methodist church, officiating. The I. O. O. F. lodge was in charge of the burial ceremonies. Interment was in Mount Hope cemetery."

**PETER DINGMAN.** For seventy-three years Peter Dingman has lived in Miami county and practically all the time has been spent on the farm which he now occupies in Erie township. He was brought to this county a child, grew up in the pioneer conditions which existed during the forties and fifties, and throughout his active career followed the peaceful vocation of agriculture, and has enjoyed a success much above the ordinary. He reared a fine household of children, who for their part are now honored men and women, several of them with families of their own. Having provided well for his children Mr. Dingman is now living retired from active pursuits, and enjoys the fruits of his well spent earlier years.

Peter Dingman was born July 22, 1839, in Allen county, Indiana, a son of Abraham and Martha E. (Rice) Dingman. The other chil-

dren in the family were named, Mary, Martha, Sarah Jane, Elizabeth, Samuel, Eunice, Rachel and Julia. Rachel and Julia are now the only ones living.

In October, 1840, the family moved to Miami county from Allen county. That was many years before the first railroad was constructed and the only method of transportation in use were the highways, which were little more than blazed trails through the woods, and the old Wabash & Erie Canal, which led from Fort Wayne down the Wabash Valley through Miami county. It was along the canal that the family made its migration from Allen county. The father was a very successful man, owned a good farm in Allen county, and traded for the land which he occupied in Erie township of Miami county. On the homestead which the family occupied on first coming to Miami county, Mr. Dingman still resides. Only about six acres of the land had been cleared when the Dingmans arrived, and their first home was a rough log cabin which they put up in this clearing after they reached the county. Primitive though it was that cabin was of about the type of home possessed by the majority of Miami county settlers at the time, and it continued to shelter the family for some years. The earliest recollections of Peter Dingman are of the great native woods that almost completely hemmed in the home place, and for a number of years after they settled here wild game was plentiful among the trees, and the Indians occasionally visited the Dingman homestead. In a little log schoolhouse, reached by a path through the woods, Peter Dingman acquired all the schooling he ever had, and the school in that log cabin was kept up for only about sixty days in the year, and was supported by subscriptions taken among the patrons. Much of his time was taken up during his youth by work on the home farm, since there was a great deal of hard labor to be done in clearing and grubbing and planting. For this reason his school days were prolonged much beyond the usual period, and he attended school at intervals up until he was twenty-five years old. He even went to school one winter after he was married.

The senior Dingman later bought a farm in Peru township, and moved his home to that place, where he remained until his death. After his marriage Mr. Dingman continued to work the original homestead and has lived there all the rest of his career. There were originally more than thirteen hundred acres in the farm. Most of the improvements in buildings were constructed by the father, and Peter Dingman has built the house in which he now has his comfortable home.

On November 13, 1877, Mr. Dingman married Mary E. Spangler, a daughter of John and Margaret C. (Gettlebauer) Spangler. The six children born to their marriage are: Samuel, unmarried; Alice, who married Mack Bailey, and has one child, Vernice; Emma, who married David Kitsmiller; Clara, Clarence, and Florence, who are unmarried and live at home. The daughters Emma, Clara and Florence have all taken musical instruction. Mr. Dingman is a Democrat in politics, and has always been a public spirited citizen. Mrs. Peter Dingman is a typical pioneer mother, as she and her husband have both witnessed the wonderful development of Northern Indiana. She is a native of Pipe Creek township, Miami county, born November 28, 1849, and a daughter of John and Margaret C. (Gettlebauer) Spangler. She was reared and educated in Miami county. She and her husband received the most primitive of educations in the log schoolhouse where the pupils sat on slab or board benches, and the desk was a broad board fastened at the wall of the building. Some of the text books they used



were Smith's Arithmetic, Webster's Elementary Spelling Books and McGuffey's Readers, and they used the goose or turkey quill pen, made by the teacher, and their copy books were foolscap paper sewed together. This schoolhouse was heated by a mammoth box stove. This was the character of the pioneer schools, where now in 1913 the pupils have all the modern equipments for their education. Mr. Dingman has seen plenty of deer and wolves in this locality and they have seen the North American Indian in his savage state. Mrs. Dingman as a pioneer mother can relate of the time when she took the wool from the sheep's back, carded it, spun and wove it into cloth, as well as spun and wove linen from flax. She is a lady of remarkable memory and can relate many reminiscences of the primitive period of Indiana, when she was a little maiden of eight summers. She has been an able factor in the building of their house and rearing a family of honorable children. The sport of ye olden days was log rolling, and at evening a big supper and a "frolic" (as the pleasure was called). She has attended many of the "quilting bees" and "wool pickings" which are unknown to the younger generations. Her religious training was of the Methodist faith. Mr. and Mrs. Dingman have many relics of the past—an old rifle made for his father in 1835, and Mrs. Dingman has linen table cloths, over a century old, they having been brought from Germany by her parents. They also have one of the old parchment deeds, which was executed under the administration of President Andrew Jackson and bears the date of June 8, 1833, which is a valuable heirloom in the home and county. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Dingman comprises over 200 acres of rich Wabash bottom land and is known as "Glendale Grange," situated near the Northern Indiana Interurban Railroad.

RICHARD B. RUNYAN AND BRITTON L. RUNYAN. In the sturdy processes by which the original wilderness of Miami county was converted to a comfortable abiding place for humanity, no family was earlier on the scene or contributed more important parts as industrious and law-abiding and upright people than the Runyan family, in its various branches. The name has been identified with this county for seventy years or more and in some of the collateral branches its history goes back to the very foundation of the county.

Richard B. Runyan, who himself was one of the early settlers of the county, was born at Trenton, New Jersey, October 16, 1824, a son of Lewis and Mary (Britton) Runyan. His mother was a sister of R. L. Britton, one of the original proprietors of Peru when first platted. R. L. Britton was prominently identified with the early development of the city, and with others laid the foundation for its later prosperity. He died May 26, 1850, at the age of sixty years. His father had been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and the Britton family, as also the Runyans, belonged to the best American stock.

The late Richard B. Runyan grew to manhood in the state of his birth, where he secured a practical education, and in 1844 at the age of twenty and through the influence of his uncle Mr. Britton, started west and finally arrived in Miami county. Peru was at that time a small village, and he was here in time to participate in much of its development and enterprise. In subsequent years he moved to a farm just outside the city limits on the northwest and by industry and good management accumulated a comfortable competency in land and city property. From the beginning of his residence here, he took an active interest in public affairs, and in all that promoted the good of the community. His popularity as a citizen, and the confidence reposed in

him throughout the community were evidenced by his election to the office of county auditor in 1878, and his reelection four years later. He made a record as a competent and painstaking official, and gave splendid service during the eight years which he held the county auditor's position.

In November, 1853, Richard B. Runyan married Maria McGregor, who was born May 1, 1834, and was the first white child born at Miamisport, an historic old village which is now included within the city limits of Peru. John McGregor, the father of Mrs. Runyan, was a noted character in the early annals of Miami county. He had the distinction of settling in what is now the corporate limits of Peru in February, 1827, and history gives him fame as the first permanent resident. Subsequently he was proprietor of an old tavern in this locality. His death occurred August 26, 1835. Richard B. Runyan and wife were members of the Episcopal church. After more than fifty years of residence in this city he passed away on November 26, 1899, and his wife had preceded him on March 28, 1892. The late Mr. Runyan had laid out an addition to the town of Peru and a street in this city bears his name. During his earlier career he had started for California, but while on the way and in Texas became stranded for lack of money, and had to teach a term of school in order to secure the necessary financial means to continue his journey.

Britton L. Runyan, the only son of the late Richard S. Runyan and wife, was named for his great-uncle, Richard L. Britton, whose name and place as one of the pioneers have already been noted. Britton L. Runyan was born August 18, 1862, on the Runyan farm adjoining Peru, and was reared to manhood on the old place and has always made his home there or in the city of Peru. His early education was acquired in the local public schools, and when eighteen years of age in 1880 he became deputy county auditor under his father. He continued in that service throughout the remainder of his father's term, a period of six years. After leaving the office in the courthouse he returned to the farm and continued in its active management until 1899. At that date he again moved into Peru, where he has since lived though devoting most of his attention to farming. Mr. Runyan is the owner of one hundred and fifty acres of land adjoining the city of Peru, and also has extensive investments in town property.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Runyan in 1906 was elected a member of the new county council, and served in that capacity for four years. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On October 24, 1886, he married Miss Anna J. Elvin, a daughter of Francis H. and Helen E. (Brodrick) Elvin. The parents of Mrs. Runyan came to Peru from Madison in this state in 1870. Mr. Elvin, who was of English parentage, was a machinist by trade, and followed that occupation for a number of years in Peru. During the Civil war he had been connected with the Postal service for the Federal Government. Mr. Elvin died August 9, 1909, and his wife on December 26, 1876. The two daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. Runyan are named Enid K. and Marjorie M. The family worship at the Episcopal Church.

JOHN HINER AND JOHN MILLER HINER. Among the notable Miami county families none has been more conspicuous as representing the best virtues of manhood and social character than has the Hiner family during the three generations of their residence in this county. The Hiners came to this vicinity almost at the pioneer beginning of Miami county, did their share of the hard work involved in the clearing of the forest, and the laying of the substantial foundation of civilization.



To an unusual degree material success has been their lot, and the bearers of the name have also stood in important relations with the civic affairs of this community.

John Hiner, whose death occurred in 1880, came to Miami county with his parents, and the family settled north of Peru in Peru township in the year 1836. John Hiner, Sr., the father, was a blacksmith by trade, and his native state was Virginia. He came west with his wife and family of five sons and two daughters, driving overland across the bents of country which separated the east from the middle west, at a time when the only means of transportation over this vast area was the water route or the slow and tedious progress of the ox-drawn wagons. Setting up his shop at his homestead north of Peru, the Senior Hiner made his place a favorite rendezvous for the early settlers throughout this section of the county. That old blacksmith shop deserves lasting remembrance among the centers where people were wont to gather together in the early days of Miami county.

The late John Hiner grew up in the atmosphere of these pioneer conditions, and as a boy knew the meaning of hard toil and the difficulties involved in creating a home in a new wilderness region. The schools of his time were exceedingly meagre in equipment and advantages, and he had practically no education, except such as he acquired at home and by his own efforts. He was a young man when the glowing reports came from the newly discovered gold fields of the Pacific slope. Under the influence of that exciting period he mortgaged his interest in the farm left by his father, and with the proceeds of this money went to New York, where he took a ship to the Isthmus of Panama, crossing that strait partly by river and partly by pack train, and on the other side took a boat up to San Francisco. In the Eldorado regions he was employed for a time in transporting supplies to and from the mines, and later became an actual participant in the placer mining on the Sacramento river. During his residence in California, he succeeded in acquiring enough money to cancel the mortgage which he had placed on the old home, and brought back a considerable quantity of gold in addition to that sum. Though he did not find fame and fortune on the gold coast, he was greeted on his return as one of the more successful of the California forty-niners and his successful start in the west enabled him to prosecute his ventures in his old home county with renewed energy and prosperity.

Returning home he took up farming and stock raising, and succeeded beyond the average. He became the owner of nearly six hundred acres near his home town, and had various other property. John Hiner married Harriet Miller, who also represented a pioneer family of Miami county. They became the parents of five children, three of whom are now living. The late John Hiner was particularly noted in his community for his remarkable industry, and was considered one of the hardest working men among all his contemporaries. With this industry he also combined another characteristic, that of kindly hospitality, which was a feature of his old home, and which made it a place of happy good cheer to all who came within the door. As already mentioned he was a Virginian by birth, and to a large degree transferred to his Miami county home many of the characteristics familiarly associated with the old southern hospitality. In his business relations his word was everywhere recognized as good as his bond. His death, occurring when he was only fifty-seven years of age, was widely regretted throughout this county.

John Miller Hiner is a native of Peru township, born on the old homestead north of Peru, March 5, 1860. As a boy he became familiar







*J. M. Hutchinson*

with all the operations of the farm, and attained his education in the public schools. The oldest son in the family, at his father's death, it devolved upon him to take charge of the estate, and in this way he was fully occupied for a number of years. When about thirty-two years of age he left the farm and entered the employ of the Wabash Railroad and for eight years was a passenger conductor, with a run through this city. In 1905, having resigned from the train service, he devoted his attention to farming, although he has always had his residence in the city during these years. Mr. Hiner is the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Peru, this land having been entered from the government by his maternal grandfather, John W. Miller. In politics Mr. Hiner is a Democrat, is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite and a Knights Templar York Rite Mason.

On June 10, 1896, he married Caroline E. Zern, a daughter of Jesse S. Zern. Their two children are Harriet C. and Zern M. The family are members of the Presbyterian church.

**FRANK M. STUTESMAN.** Among the notable Miami county families none has been more conspicuous in business affairs nor has borne the responsibility of citizenship with greater dignity and social service than have the Stutesmans during the seventy years of their residence in this county. One of the oldest, as well as one of the largest mercantile establishments in the city of Peru, is now directed by the above named member of the family, who has been actively connected with merchandising in this city for more than forty years. The late James M. Stutesman, his father, was a real business leader in this city during the middle period of the last century, and probably no one among his contemporaries has been more successful as a builder of business and a stronger executive in affairs than that worthy merchant and citizen. In considering the names of families or individuals which have been most intimately associated with the growth and development of the city of Peru since its early days, there is none that will justify examination better than Stutesman.

Frank M. Stutesman, who has been named above as the chief representative of the family at Peru in the present generation, was born in this city on December 14, 1854. The family history goes back to Germany, where his great-great-grandfather, David Stutesman, was born, and from whence at an early date he came to the United States and located in New Netherlands. From there he moved to Pennsylvania and in 1808 to Montgomery county, Ohio, where his death occurred in 1820.

This founder of the Stutesman family in America was a weaver by trade. In the next generation is Nathaniel Stutesman, grandfather of the Peru merchant, born at Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1785. Leaving there with his father he located at Brownsville, in the historic region of southwestern Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Sarah Flynn, and in 1808 moved to Montgomery county, Ohio. He was a life-long farmer and during the early sixties followed his children to Miami county, where he died at Peru about 1880, at the advanced age of ninety-five years. His wife, of English parentage, was a native of Maryland, and died in Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1839. Nathaniel Stutesman, born in 1785, was a commissioned officer in the war of 1812.

James Madison Stutesman, the father, was born near Dayton, Ohio, August 4, 1819, and was in his nineteenth year when he died. His early education comprised three months attendance in an old log school house back in Ohio. The family through most of its generations has been identified with the mechanical trade, with farming, or with business.



James M. Stutesman learned the saddler's trade. With his brother Jonathan, who was a painter, he came to Miami county in September, 1842. The brothers were on their way to St. Louis with the intention of making that their home, but during his brief stay in Peru, James M. Stutesman found this community greatly in need of a saddler, and the opportunity thus presented caused him to locate here, his brother Jonathan remaining with him. Later, other brothers, David and Daniel, the former a farmer and the latter a wagon-maker, came to this county, these brothers thus contributing their material to the mechanical activities of this vicinity. James M. Stutesman was probably the first saddler in Peru, and was also among the first to bring stoves, both heating and cooking, to Peru for sale. In 1859 he engaged in the hardware business and was actively connected with this line of trade until 1882, at which time he sold out and retired from the active affairs of life. During his earlier career he was an old-line Whig, later a Republican, but was never active in party affairs nor an aspirant for public office, though always a loyal citizen and giving his support to many enterprises and movements which had more bearing upon the welfare of his home community than many of the more conspicuous political agitations. His church was the Presbyterian. James M. Stutesman was married at Vincennes, Indiana, March 30, 1845, to Miss Elizabeth Shields, who was born at Vincennes August 23, 1823, of Scotch-Irish parentage, and whose death occurred at Peru several years ago. Mr. Stutesman after marriage brought his wife by stage to Lafayette and then to Peru on the first packet. The first boat run on the canal was called a line boat, with a speed of three miles. A new line of passenger packets was put on at a speed of six miles, and Mr. Stutesman brought his bride over this line on the first boat run at this speed. The six children of their marriage were as follows: Mary, who died in childhood; Harriet, who married John S. Hale, and who died in 1897; Edwin, who died in 1854; Frank M.; Clara E., the wife of W. V. Spinning; and James Flynn, who is now a resident of Washington, D. C.

In the death of James M. Stutesman on February 21, 1908, Miami county lost one of its foremost pioneers. He was a man of perfect physical development, with equal gist of mentality, and one whose keen judgment and sense of justice was such that it was often remarked that he would have lent dignity and highest service as a member of the judiciary. His mental faculties at the time of his death were as bright as many years before, and he preserved his wonderful vigor to the end.

Frank M. Stutesman, now one of the oldest merchants, in point of continuous service in Peru, was reared in this city, received his education in the public schools until his fifteenth year and then after a few weeks as clerk for his father, entered the store of his brother-in-law, John S. Hale, as a clerk. That was in September, 1870, and for forty-three consecutive years he has been identified with the same establishment. Mr. Hale died in 1882, and from that time until 1897 Mr. Stutesman and his sister, Mrs. Hale, continued the business together. In the latter year Mr. Stutesman became sole owner and proprietor. Then in 1912 occurred a reorganization of the business and it was incorporated under the present title of John S. Hale Company. Mr. Stutesman is president, Margaret A. Wood is secretary, and John E. Groth is treasurer. This store has a history of its own among the mercantile establishments of Peru, and was organized in 1867 by John S. Hale. For more than forty-five years it has stood as one of the substantial enterprises of this state, and through this time its dealings and methods have all reflected the fine integrity and business characters of several of the most eminent among Miami county merchants.

Mr. Stutesman is a Republican in politics, and is keenly interested in good government both national and local, but has never been a politician. In his avocations, Mr. Stutesman has long been an ardent student of the past, particularly the antiquities of his home county, and there is probably no better informed citizen in Miami county in Indian history than Frank M. Stutesman. He took an active part in the organization of a county historical society, and has always given his encouragement to study and investigation of local annals. He has the first flag of the stars and stripes that ever floated in Miami county, an account of which is given on other pages. Mr. Stutesman is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Peru, being a charter member of that organization. He was married March 8, 1883, to Miss Ada Dodds at Logansport. Their three children are John Hale; Alice M. and Frank M., Jr.

JOHN H. HELM, M. D. Among the group of men who must be accounted the leaders of the medical profession during the last half of the nineteenth century in Indiana, the late Dr. John H. Helm was foremost in ability and standing. Few American families have been represented longer or more continuously in the profession of medicine than that of Helm. The father of the late Dr. Helm was a physician during the early half of the preceding century, Dr. John H. Helm filled up the period between the late forties until nearly the close of the century, and since then Dr. Charles J. Helm has continued the work of his father, and is one of the most honored and successful of Miami county's physicians.

The founder of the Helm family in America was Sir Meredith Helm who came from England in the early colonial days and settled in Baltimore. The grandfather of the late Dr. Helm of Peru is one of his descendants, and lived during his early life before the war of the Revolution in the Lower Shenandoah Valley. He fought as an American patriot in that great struggle. One of his children was Dr. John Cowan Helm who was born in Southern Virginia on the Upper James river, November 7, 1800. Later the family moved further west into Washington county, Tennessee. He received his education at Washington College, studied medicine and became a successful practitioner.

In 1835 he moved to Preble county, Ohio, and from there in 1844 came to Miami county, Indiana, where he was one of the early physicians. In Miami county, however, he gave most of his attention to the milling business and erected one of the early flour mills at Peru. He also built a mill at Peoria in this county, and built up and continued for a number of years extensive business affairs in that locality. He was a man of remarkable energy and business ability, and also possessed thoroughly trained talents for his profession, so that in both his professional and his business career he acquired a large success. He was married in 1821 to Amy Hampton, a daughter of Major John Hampton, who had served under General Jackson in the war of 1812, and was a brother of the first Wade Hampton and great-uncle to General Wade Hampton, the famous Confederate general. Mrs. Helm died in 1865, and their children were John Hampton, Henry Thomas and David Bedford.

The late Dr. John Hamilton Helm was born at Elizabethtown, Carter county, Tennessee, April 23, 1826, and acquired most of his early education through private instruction. The custom still prevailed when he was young of preparing for medical or other professional careers by means of a preceptor, and according to this system, he studied medicine under two of the leading doctors of Eaton, Ohio. Subsequently he entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, where he was graduated



in 1847, and began practice at Eaton in partnership with one of his preceptors. He was under General Wool in one of the expeditions sent to Mexico during the war with that country, and in 1848 he began a three years' trip in course of which he visited California and many countries in north Central and South America.

After returning home Dr. Helm resumed practice at Eaton, Ohio, where he remained until 1860 at which date he came to Peru and established an office in this city. Besides the large practice which was a tribute to his ability as a physician, he received various honors in the organized activities of medicine. He served as president of the Indiana State Medical Society, in 1876, was also president of the Miami County Medical Society, and took a very active part in organizing and for many years was president of the Peru Board of Health. Through many years he was a more or less regular contributor to medical literature, and was also a charming speaker and fluent writer on both professional and general topics. He attended in 1871 the first meeting of the American Medical Association in California, and at that time was made an honorary member of the California Medical Society. Along with a successful practice he acquired and managed throughout many years large farming interests in both this county and elsewhere.

During many years of citizenship in Peru, the late Dr. Helm was noted for his varied philanthropy, although he was never a conspicuous giver nor one who sought any current fame from his work of benevolence. He was one of the active members of the Peru Catholic church, and was liberal in all his contributions to his home church and to charitable works of all kinds.

In 1851 Dr. John H. Helm married Miss Mary Henkle, a daughter of Reverend Andrew Henkle, and she lived about a year after their marriage. In 1854 Dr. Helm married Miss Margaret Ridenour of Preble county, Ohio. The long and useful life of the late Dr. John H. Helm came to an end at Cincinnati on April 30, 1899.

CHARLES J. HELM, M. D. Representing the third generation which has been identified with medical practice in Miami county, and a son of the late Dr. John H. Helm, Charles J. Helm has been for twenty-five years an active member of the profession and on all sides is recognized as one of the ablest members of the fraternity in Miami county.

Charles Helm was born in the city of Peru, January 18, 1863. During his youth his health was delicate and he was educated largely in his own home. Subsequently he was for a year a student in a preparatory school, St. Lawrence, in Montreal, Canada, and from there was sent to Georgetown University at Georgetown, D. C. He pursued classical studies in that institution, and was graduated A. B. in 1883. He next entered the medical department of Harvard University, where he was graduated M. D. in 1887. Locating at Peru, he began his practice in this city, and soon acquired a position of influence and was noted as one of the most popular of the younger medical profession in the city. In 1890 he went abroad and spent a year in post-graduate study at St. Bartholomew's hospital in London, and after his return took a course in the New York Polyclinic. This additional study gave him distinct advantage in local practice, but from the very beginning he had never been content with any one stage of his attainments in medicine. In 1897 he again went abroad, accompanied this time by his wife, and after a varied tour through the historic and picturesque in European countries, he attended lectures and clinics in many of the best known centers of medical and surgical knowledge, and also took a second course at St. Bartholomews in London. This was followed on his arrival

in New York by another course of lectures, and when he reached Peru in 1898, he was possessed of a training and technical equipment to follow his profession. Dr. Helm is connected with a number of the medical societies, and for a number of years has been consulting surgeon at the Wabash hospital in Peru.

Dr. Charles J. Helm married Miss Frances A. Carter. Their first child died at the age of five months, and the two children now living are Carter James and Frances Amelia.

**MICHAEL F. LONG.** One of the young men in commercial affairs of Peru, Mr. Long is proprietor of a splendid boot and shoe establishment, which during its existence has maintained a reputation for the excellence of its goods and has a high class patronage that has continued dealing in this store year after year. Mr. Long has spent nearly all his life in Peru, represents an honored family in this city, and through his own career has done much to increase the business facilities of the city.

He was born in Peru June 14, 1877, one of five surviving children in a family of eight, born to the marriage of Jeremiah and Bridget (Murphy) Long. The father, who was born in county Cork, Ireland, was about fourteen years of age and an orphan boy when he immigrated to the United States. From this early age he was dependent upon his own resources, and like many others of his race won an admirable success and position in life. After a short stay in New York, he came west and located at Bedford, Indiana, where he was employed for some time in the stone quarries. When the Wabash Railroad was being built through Indiana, he came to Peru and became identified with the service of that transportation company. He continued an employe of the Wabash for a period of forty-five years, and the company had no more loyal, nor more efficient service than Jeremiah Long. He was a man of limited education, but because of his genial disposition had friends wherever he was known. His chief characteristics were his continued loyalty to the road in whose service he had worked for so long, and also his devotion to his family. In politics he was a Democrat, and he and his family were communicants of the Catholic faith. Jeremiah Long died February 27, 1901, and his widow still survives. With the exception of a short period during which his home was in Indianapolis, Michael F. Long has been a resident of Peru all his life. He attained his education in the parochial and also the public schools of the city, and when about seventeen years old began his business career as a clerk in the old mercantile house of John S. Hale. For about eighteen months he was also in the employ of Julius Falk. This experience enabled him to take the next higher degrees in commercial life, and for five years he was a commercial salesman on the road, representing St. Louis and Chicago shoe houses. Leaving the road in January 1905, he established himself in business at Peru as a member of the retail shoe firm of Long & Moore. In 1910 they established another store at Kokomo, but at the end of a year their partnership was dissolved at which time Mr. Moore retained the ownership of the Kokomo store, and Mr. Long remained in charge of the store at Peru. As sole proprietor of this business he has since been actively engaged in building up its trade and establishing a reliable and well satisfied patronage.

On August 16, 1904, he married Miss Gertrude Dowling, of Logansport. They are the parents of two daughters, Mary Veronica and Margaret Cecelia. Mr. Long is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge No. 365 and of the Knights of Columbus.



G. LEE MILLER. Familiarly and uniformly known as Lee Miller, he whose name initiates this review has been a resident of the city of Peru, judicial center of Miami county, since a boy, and he is one of the widely known and distinctively popular citizens of this section of his native state. He was one of the gallant and youthful patriots representing Indiana in the Union service in the Civil war, and in the "piping times of peace" he has shown the same loyalty and trustworthiness which he significantly manifested when he went forth to lend his aid in defense of the nation's integrity. In Miami county it may consistently be said that his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances, and he is living virtually retired in his pleasant home in the city of Peru, though he continued to accord a general and systematic supervision to his farming and other property interests.

At Wabash, Indiana, the capital of the county of the same name, George Lee Miller was born on the 10th of February, 1848; and he is one of the two survivors of the four children of George B. and Mary (Russell) Miller, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Kentucky. George B. Miller was a boy at the time of his parents' immigration from the old Keystone state to Ohio, and the family home was established in Preble county, that state, where he was reared to adult age and received a common-school education. It is also to be presumed that in that state he learned the trade of plasterer, to which he devoted his attention for a number of years. In the early '40s he made a trip through the intermediate west and finally located at Wabash, Indiana, where he engaged in the work of his trade. His marriage was solemnized at Peru, his wife's parents having been numbered among the sterling pioneers of Miami county, and after this important event in his career he continued to maintain his residence at Wabash until about 1857, when he came with his family to Peru, where he continued in the work of his trade and where he finally became otherwise identified with business interests. He was a man of sterling character and was held in high esteem in this community, which continued to represent his home until his death, on the 17th of May, 1909, at the patriarchal age of nearly ninety-two years, as he was born in October, 1817. His cherished and devoted wife, who gained the affectionate regard of all who were within the compass of her gentle and kindly influence, was born in June, 1821, and thus she was nearly ninety years of age when summoned to the life eternal, on the 11th of January, 1911, both she and her husband having been earnest and consistent members of the Presbyterian church.

George Lee Miller was about nine years of age at the time of the family removal to Peru, and in the local schools he gained the major part of his early educational discipline, which has been effectively supplemented by the experiences of a long and active career as one of the world's workers. He has continuously maintained his home in Peru since his boyhood days and is known and honored of the people of the county to which his allegiance has never failed. He was still attending school at the time of the inception of the Civil war and when but fourteen years of age he ran away from home and attempted to enlist as a soldier, but through parental influence he was compelled to return home. In 1864, upon Governor Morton's call for volunteers for the one hundred days' service, the patriotic young Miller, then about 16 years of age, was not to be denied a chance to enlist and go to the front if his ambition could be realized through such finesse as he could bring to bear. The inspecting officer in examining the volunteers formed them in double rank, and Mr. Miller was placed in the rear rank. By a prearranged plan, after the inspecting officer had passed along the







*Godlove Conrath*

front line, the man in front of Mr. Miller exchanged places with him, having previously given his name as Miller, and the determined young aspirant for military honors stepped quickly to place in the front rank, whereupon his indulgent prospective comrade stood for inspection in the rear rank, in which he gave his own name. By this engaging subterfuge young Miller, who was under age and of insufficient physical stature to pass inspection in a normal way, escaped detection and gained the desired end, which he yet believes justified the means. He was regularly mustered in as a member of Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and while his term of enlistment was but for one hundred days he continued in active service for nearly six months, having received his honorable discharge, in accordance with special order issued by President Lincoln, on the 1st of October, 1864. His military service was principally in Tennessee, where his command was assigned to guard duty, and though he was not a participant in important engagements he made an admirable record for true soldierly qualities, as he was punctilious in the discharge of duties assigned to him and was always to be found at his post.

Upon his return to his home Mr. Miller assumed a position as clerk in a grocery store in Peru, and after being thus engaged for several years he became deputy county auditor, a position of which he continued the incumbent for a period of four years. Thereafter he was employed for seventeen years as a letter carrier in the city of Peru. He in the meanwhile made judicious investments in farm property and city real estate, to which he has given the major part of his time and attention in later years. He owns 185 acres of land in Peru township. He is liberal and public-spirited as a citizen, designates himself a progressive Republican in politics and is identified with various civic organizations in his home city.

On the 13th of December, 1877, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Zitilla J. Tillett, daughter of William Tillett, concerning whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work, and the two children of this union are Mary Floy, who remains at the parental home; and Corwin E., who is a resident of Peru, where he is engaged in manufacturing automobile tires; he wedded Miss Helen Miner and they have one child, Mary Rosalee.

**GODLOVE CONRADT.** Among the families whose activities and lives have been distinctive contributions to the progress of Peru, probably none deserves more credit than that of Conradt. Upwards of seventy years ago, the then head of the family came to this city and established a tannery, which was one of the early industries of the kind, and one of the most important likewise. From that time to the present, the name has been associated with big endeavors and industries, which employ large quantities of labor, produce commodities to the value of many thousands of dollars each year, and which represent both in Peru and elsewhere some of the largest commercial assets of the community.

Mr. Godlove Conradt, who is now nearly eighty years of age, and one of the most venerable and successful of Peru's older business men, was born in the kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany, July 10, 1834. Of the eight children in the family, four are now living. The parents were Henry E. and Catherine (Burkhardt) Conradt. In 1840 the family immigrated to America, making their home first in Springfield, Ohio, where the father built a tannery and was engaged in the tanning business up to 1845. In the later year he moved to Indiana, and after a short residence at Fort Wayne came to Peru. Here the father estab-



lished a tanning yard, and the location of this business, for a number of years, was on a site now occupied by the Chesapeake & Ohio switchyard in the west end of Peru. The father continued his connection with the tanning business until about 1864, and then lived retired until his death in 1871. His wife passed away in the same year about one month before him.

Godlove Conradt was about six years of age when the family came to America, and was about twelve years old when they located in Peru. The circumstances of the family were such that he had very limited opportunities for gaining an education, and the entire time which he attended school did not exceed six months. Observation and reading, a large experience with practical affairs, and association with men, have remedied these early defects in education, and he is not only a successful man in material affairs, but is well informed and throughout his life has possessed that intellectual curiosity which is a better asset than many unimproved opportunities and liberal advantages of education. As a boy he began at an early age to assist his father in the tan yard and ground the tan bark and did every other duty which his strength and experience permitted. Before he had reached his maturity he had acquainted himself by practical experience with every branch of the business and was an expert tanner. His father was an excellent tanner, but a poor business man, and it was for this reason that the industry had not prospered and the family likewise, during the early years. The sons believed that they could supply the judgment and energy needed for the business, and the father eventually consented to admit them to partnership. From this time on the firm prospered and the Conradt tanning business became one of the largest in northern Indiana, but it was due to the advice and management of Godlove Conradt that a retail store for leather findings was established at Peru. This not only provided a market for the local tannery products but became the medium of trade in thousands of dollars' worth of goods sent in from the eastern houses. The credit of the Conradts was such that after they had once established themselves in the business they could always discount their papers, and receive more favorable terms than the wholesalers and jobbers. Some time after the brothers took charge of the business the Civil war broke out and thereby was created a large demand for leather findings to be used by the army. Under this extraordinary demand the business increased to phenomenal value, and the prosperity of the house was securely established at that time. In 1857 his brother died and Mr. Godlove Conradt in 1864 bought out the entire business, and conducted it until 1882, although some ten years before he had abandoned the local tannery.

During the past thirty years his attention has been diverted into many large fields of enterprise. About the time he disposed of his leather business, he took a contract to get out and deliver to the Wabash Railroad, ties, tiling and other timbers, and he spent three years in finishing up this contract. Having prospered in business and having a handsome competence, he then endeavored to retire and spend the rest of his years at leisure. He succeeded in this plan up to 1893, but then joined his sons Fred W. and Albert V. in establishing the Great Western Pottery Company at Kokomo. This was an entirely new field of operation to all the partners, but they used such practical business sense in the conduct of the business that in a few years the pottery company became one of the largest manufacturing plants in the state of Indiana. The factory was started with four kilns, and two more were soon added to meet the demand for the product. In 1896 the factory was partly destroyed by fire at a loss of \$53,000. Insurance to the

amount of \$40,000 was recovered, and the proprietors at once rebuilt on fire-proof lines. The plant at Kokomo now operates twelve kilns. In 1898, owing to the inability of the corporation to manufacture sufficient goods to meet the demand, a second factory at Tiffin, Ohio, was bought and ten kilns are now operated there. In all the two factories represent a capital of about \$800,000, employment is given to about three hundred hands, and the value of the annual product amounts to more than \$700,000. At Tiffin also Mr. Conradt and sons are engaged in the metal-ware manufacturing, under the firm name of the Tiffin Art Metal Company. The products of that company are widely advertised and used in every part of the country. The metal business represents a capital invested of about \$125,000. It was a severe loss to the successful business organization so long conducted by father and sons when Frederick W. Conradt died on August 14, 1909. He had made his home at Tiffin, and was one of the most vigorous leaders in the business enterprise of that city. Mr. Godlove Conradt in 1910 had financed the contract for the erection of the city electric works of Peru. His time is now occupied in looking after his extensive property interests.

On December 27, 1857, Mr. Conradt married Mary Smith, who was born in Hesse, Darmstadt, Germany. The four children of their marriage are as follows: Matilda C., wife of Dr. A. H. Kalbfleisch of Peru; Fred W., whose successful career has been briefly alluded to; George W., who died when ten years of age, and Albert V. Politically, Mr. Conradt is now a Republican, but previous to the free coinage of silver heresy he affiliated with the Democratic party. He was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church, but is now an active member of no religious organization. During his life he has traveled extensively, his travels including a 11,000-mile trip to Panama.

**MICHAEL BAPPERT.** Soldier, business man, public spirited citizen, and former capable official of the county, Michael Bappert is probably as widely known through Miami county as any other man, and has had a long and active career of usefulness. His long residence and his military and official career makes him eminently worthy of mention in the work setting forth the incidents in the lives of the representative men in this section of Indiana.

Michael Bappert is a native of Bavaria, Germany, where he was born December 31, 1844, the only child born to the marriage of George and Hannah Bappert. Michael was five years of age when his father died, and the mother and son in January, 1853, set out for America. A sailing vessel brought them by tiresome stages through fifty days of voyage to New Orleans, and after landing there they took a boat up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati. At Cincinnati our subject's mother continued to reside for a number of years, and was there married to Ernest Ehrentraut. By this marriage there were four children, three of whom are now living. Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Ehrentraut moved to Philadelphia, and spent the remainder of their lives in that city.

Thus it happened that Michael Bappert remained in his native country until he was a little past the age of eight years. During that time he had received some advantages in the public school. After coming to America he continued to live with his mother at Cincinnati, until he was fourteen years of age, and at that time started in life on his **own** responsibility. His first job was that of assistant to the pastry cook on board the steamboat "War Eagle." This work and the other occupations which a boy could follow on board a steamboat were his regular pursuits from that time until the breaking out of the Civil war.



Though less than seventeen years of age when the war came on, Mr. Bappert made a notable record as soldier. In 1861 while in Kentucky he enlisted in Company F of the Twelfth Kentucky Infantry, and was on detached service under General Thomas at the battle of Murfreesborough. In a flanking movement on the part of the enemy in that engagement, Mr. Bappert was taken prisoner, and was sent to Richmond and placed in the notorious Libby Prison. He endured the rigors of that confinement for five months, at the end of which time he was paroled and eventually exchanged. Since he was still under age, his mother invoked the interference of the court and secured his discharge from the service. However, he was not satisfied as yet with his career as a soldier and enlisted in Company G of the Forty-Seventh Ohio Infantry, joining his regiment at Stevenson, Alabama. He arrived there in time to take part in the great Sherman campaign to Atlanta. His first engagement was at Kenesaw Mountain, and subsequently he was in almost continuous fighting up to August 3, at which date he received a gun-shot wound through the left knee and on the same day the leg was amputated. This effectually put an end to his aspirations for a further military career, but his sacrifices in behalf of the Union ended with his honorable discharge. Owing to the crudity of the first amputation, he was required to undergo three more operations, and was incapacitated from all activities for one year and nine days, finally being discharged from the hospital after the close of the war. On returning to Cincinnati, he learned the cigar-maker's trade. While in that city he married Dora E. Snyder.

After becoming an expert at his trade, and following it for some years in Cincinnati, he moved to New Carlisle, Ohio, thence to Springfield in the same state, from there back to Cincinnati, then to Defiance, Ohio, and in the fall of 1870 located at Peru, which has since been his permanent home. Here he began working at his trade, and subsequently started a cigar shop at the little village of Denver. During his residence there, in 1886, he was elected to the office of county recorder on the Republican ticket. He had become very popular in the citizenship of the county, and his name has always created much support whenever proposed for official position. He held the office of county recorder for one term of four years, and in 1890 was elected county auditor, an office in which he served also four years. Since the expiration of his last term Mr. Bappert has been practically retired, owing to ill health.

Fraternally he is one of the popular members of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Order of Elks, and the Knights of Pythias. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church. The four children born to their marriage were: John, who died in infancy; Ella, now Mrs. Charles H. Howes, her husband being a traveling auditor on the Missouri Pacific Railway; George J., who is a resident of Arkansas; and Lillian E., a teacher in the high school at Rochester, Indiana.

J. FRANK GYSIN. Since the beginning of 1910 city treasurer of Peru, Mr. Gysin has by a career of sustained efforts and ability to advance himself, demonstrated his thorough fitness for official responsibility and the fine esteem in which his name is held throughout this community.

J. Frank Gysin was born in Peru, Indiana, September 2, 1864, a son of George Frederick and Louisa Carolina (Heider) Gysin, both of whom were natives of Germany, the father born in Wuerttemberg,

Germany, and the mother in Saxony. The parents were married after coming to America at Richmond, Indiana, and from that city they moved to Peru about 1858, where the father added his skill as a blacksmith to the practice of the mechanical arts in this city. He remained in the quiet pursuits of his regular business until his death on May 5, 1872. The mother still survives and resides in this city.

Mr. Gysin attained his education in the German-Lutheran schools at Peru, and was thirteen years of age when he began independent work and earning his own way. For four years he labored on farms in Michigan at wages, and at the end of that time returned to Peru and spent one year in the employ of the Indiana Manufacturing Company. During the next two years he was again in Michigan engaged in farming. When about twenty years of age, Mr. Gysin went west and at Tacoma, Washington, followed several different occupations for two years. He next located at Livingston, Montana, in the employ of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. After this experience in the northwest he came home to Peru and was employed here as a clerk in a grocery store until November, 1892. At that date he entered the employ of J. H. Fetter in the furniture and undertaking business. He continued with Mr. Fetter for fourteen years and in the same line for another company until 1909. In 1909 occurred his election to the office as city treasurer on the Democratic ticket, and he began the responsibilities of that position in 1910. In the fall election of 1910 he was forced out by the Democrats but was reelected without opposition on the Citizens ticket. His church is the German-Lutheran.

Mr. Gysin was married February 6, 1895, to Miss Louise Rassner of Peru. Her father, William Rassner, was one of the old settlers of Peru and became identified with this locality during the canal era. Mr. and Mrs. Gysin are the parents of two sons, namely: Wilhelm Frederick Christopher and John Frank.

**THE MILLER FAMILY.** The name of no one family has been more closely and worthily linked with the history of Miami than that which initiates this paragraph, and it is a matter of imperative historical consistency that in this publication be given specific representation to various members of this sterling family,—those who have contributed in generous measure to the development and upbuilding of the county and have stood exemplar of the best type of citizenship.

**JAMES T. MILLER**, who came to the district of Indiana now comprised in Miami county in the year 1827, at which time the incipient advancement of civilization in this section was mainly represented by a pioneer trading post at Miamisport, where a few French traders had established headquarters for their bartering with the Indians. This sterling pioneer was a native of Pennsylvania, from which state he removed to Preble county, Ohio, soon after the opening of the nineteenth century. He was still a young man when he left the Buckeye state and penetrated the wilds of Indiana, whither he came on a trading expedition. Here he familiarized himself with the Indian language and for many years he continued as one of the prominent representatives of this primitive line of enterprise within the borders of the Hoosier state. He was in the employ of others during the greater part of his active career as a trader, but he accumulated a considerable tract of land in Miami county, though he never gave his personal and direct attention to agricultural pursuits. He was a man of impregnable honor and his kindness, fairness and consideration in his dealings with the Indians gained to him their confidence and definite friendship, so that he was influential as their counselor and in the protecting



of their interests. He commanded high place in the confidence and esteem of the early settlers in this section of the state and continued to maintain his home in Miami county until his death, at a comparatively early age. He assisted in the organization of Miami county and in the formative period of its history he served two terms as county treasurer. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Cole, survived him by a number of years. He was the first representative of the Miller family in Miami county, but in 1828 he was here joined by an elder brother, concerning whom definite mention is made in following paragraphs.

JOHN W. MILLER was the brother who arrived in Indiana in 1828, about a year later than James T., and while in the early days he did more or less trading with the Indians, his principal sphere of endeavor in the pioneer wilds was in the developing of land and reclaiming the same to cultivation, so that he became one of the earliest representatives of the agricultural industry in Miami county. In the western part of what is now Peru township he settled on a tract of heavily timbered land, to which he later entered formal claim through government entry, after the surveys had been made. He endured to the full the arduous toils, the hardships and the vicissitudes which fell to the lot of the average pioneer under similar conditions and he proved well his usefulness as one of the world's noble workers as well as a founder and builder of the county which now wears the gracious crown of opulent prosperity and industrial and civic precedence.

In Ohio was solemnized the marriage of John W. Miller to Miss Julia Ann Lease, and when he came to Indiana he was accompanied by his wife and their infant daughter. The tangible property of the pioneer family was represented in a somewhat dilapidated wagon, a yoke of steers, a blind horse and a meager supply of household goods. The long and tedious journey from Ohio was made with this primitive outfit and Mr. Miller drove the ox team, which slowly plodded its way and pulled the wagon in which were placed the little stock of household necessities, Mrs. Miller having made the trip in stately dignity on the back of the blind horse and with her babe in her arms. Often en route was it necessary for Mr. Miller to interrupt the progress of the journey to make with his ax a clearing through which the team and wagon might pass, and on other occasions he found it necessary to fill in marshy places with sticks and logs, to afford a roadway.

After arriving at their destination the family utilized the wagon as a domicile until the husband and father had made a clearing in the forest and there erected his pioneer log cabin, ten by twelve feet in dimensions. This primitive structure was finished without the utilization of nails, which were at that time an unknown quantity in this section, and the building was equipped with a roof of shakes, hewn out by hand, as was also the puncheon floor. Stone was gathered for the construction of the huge fireplace that was to furnish heat and cooking facilities, and the original chimney was made of sticks and mud, this primitive cement serving in place of plaster. Later a log stable was built for the protection of the young live stock, which otherwise would have suffered from the depredations of wolves and other wild animals. Other natural obstacles confronted the sturdy pioneer, and it was found difficult even to raise a crop of grain, as the squirrels and various varieties of birds manifested altogether too great an approval of the growing crop, which they appropriated to their own use. The sheltered inmates of the rude forest lodge found the howling wolves an ungrateful slumber sound by night, and the voracious animals

would often come by day and scratch on the cabin door when they detected the odor of cooking meat. To add to his discomfort, Mr. Miller did not become readily acclimated, and for the first three years of his residence in Miami county he may have found adequate the exercise which he gained through his physical agitation by ague, with its alternating chills and fever. Later generations, who clamor for and demand luxuries, may well pause to contemplate with admiration the courage and steadfast purpose of the sturdy pioneer families who labored and endured greatly, in order to make for themselves homes and to carry forward the developing agencies which have made possible the conditions and influences of the twentieth century.

Mr. Miller was a man of strong individuality, alert mentality and mature judgment, and these attributes combined with sterling integrity to make him an influential factor in public affairs in the pioneer community. He served as county commissioner at the time when Miami county was still an integral part of Cass county. He accounted well for himself and to the world as an indefatigable and productive worker and loyal citizen, and his name merits a place of prominence on the roster of the honored pioneers of Miami county. An incident of his journey through the wilderness from Ohio to Indiana is worthy of note in this connection. In starting forth for the new home he had a cash capital of fifty dollars in gold, and this coin was in a sack which was placed in the bottom of the wagon. In crossing the Wabash river at a point near the old Godfrey trading house, the sack of gold slipped from the wagon into the water, and the treasure was recovered by the employing of a man to dive for the same. Mr. Miller eventually accumulated about thirty-five hundred acres of land in Miami county, and of a very appreciable part of this extensive landed estate he continued in possession until the time of his death, which occurred in March, 1870, his cherished and devoted wife, who had shared with him the privations and other hardships of pioneer life, having been summoned to eternal rest in 1868. They became the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom only one is now living, Edward H., concerning whom specific mention will be found in later paragraphs. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were zealous members of the Roman Catholic church and in politics he gave his allegiance to the Democratic party.

EDWARD H. MILLER, only surviving child of John W. and Julia Ann (Lease) Miller, was born on the old homestead farm in Peru township, on the 22d of April, 1842, and there also were born all of the other children with the exception of the eldest daughter, who had been brought from Ohio when an infant, as previously noted in this context. Mr. Miller early gained close fellowship with the arduous labors and manifold duties of the pioneer farm, and the experience is one to which he reverts with pleasing memory, the softening influence of many years having obscured the recollection of sore and jaded muscles and almost incessant application. In a little log school-house erected by his honored father and a neighbor named Townsend he gained his early educational training, which proved a solid foundation upon which to upbuild the substantial superstructure of knowledge which he has since gained through self-discipline and close association with the practical affairs of life. He was enabled to attend Notre Dame University, at South Bend, for a few months, but he reverts to the little school-house of logs as his alma mater and recognized the solidity and value of the instruction which he received therein.

In the long years of a signally active and productive career Mr. Miller



has not faltered in his allegiance to the great basic industry under the influences of which he was reared, and he now owns nearly two hundred acres of the finest farming land to be found in Miami county, the same having been a part of the locally famed Godfrey reserve and being situated in Butler township. He resides on this fine homestead, upon which he has made the best of modern improvements, and during his entire career as a farmer and stock-grower he has exemplified the most progressive policies and methods, together with a seemingly unlimited capacity for consecutive application. He is emphatically one of the most prominent and successful representatives of the agricultural interests of his native county and here he has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the inviolable confidence and high regard of all who know him.

Mr. Miller has ever manifested a loyal interest in all that has tended to advance the civic and material welfare of his home county and state, in which connection he has given co-operation in the furtherance of progressive measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. Though never imbued with ambition for public office he accords unfaltering allegiance to the Democratic party, and thus is enabled to be one of those who, in view of the results of the national election of November, 1912, have reason to "rejoice and be exceeding glad." He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His wife holds membership in the Presbyterian church.

On the 21st of January, 1864, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Miller to Miss Louan Nesbit, who likewise was born and reared in Miami county, among whose earliest settlers were numbered her parents, the late Walter B. and Lou Ann (Reilly) Nesbit. Of the eleven children of Mr. and Mrs. Miller seven attained to years of maturity, and concerning them brief record is made in the concluding paragraph of this article.

Caroline is the widow of Edward T. Wilson and resides in Washington township; Max C. died at the age of about forty years and had five children; Edward O. is a resident of the city of Portland, Oregon, and has two children; Lou Ann is the wife of William Sharp, a representative farmer of Washington township, Miami county, and they have four children; Jessie is the wife of James H. Tillett, a resident of Peru, and they have two children; John W. is identified with prominent business interests in the city of Peru, the judicial center of his native county; and Nellie is the wife of Jason Blair, a sterling representative of the farming industry of Peru township, and has two children.

AARON N. DUKES was but twelve years old when he came to Miami county, Indiana, with his parents, and it was here that he grew to manhood and passed the greater part of his life. He was born in Randolph county, Indiana, October 27, 1834, a son of William and Matilda (McKim) Dukes, and a grandson of Isaac Dukes, who was a native of England, and who, upon coming to America, settled in Maryland.

William Dukes, the father of Aaron N. Dukes of this brief sketch, was a farmer and when Indiana was yet in her infancy as one of the sisterhood of states, he preempted a farm from the government, in Randolph county, which he proceeded to clear after the manner of the pioneer of his day. In 1846 he removed with his family to Miami county and for a number of years operated a farm near the village of Gilead, later removing to Peru where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death in 1879.

Aaron N. Dukes was able to secure a good practical education as a boy, and his earlier years were passed in helping with the work of the







*J. Duke,*

home farm. When he was seventeen years old he began clerking in the mercantile establishment of Elbert H. Shirk, and from this prince among business men he became thoroughly grounded in the knowledge of what was to be his future career. After one year he became the partner of Mr. Shirk in a branch store established at Gilead, and was thus engaged for two years. During the ensuing six years he was variously engaged in merchandising, milling and real estate at Mankato, Minnesota, and it was while he was located there that he became captain of a company of men organized to fight the Sioux Indians at the time of their historic outbreak and during their ravages along the frontier. He gained distinction in his service in that campaign as a soldier of courage and valor, and was long remembered in that district for his excellent work as an Indian fighter.

In 1862 Mr. Dukes returned to Peru, Indiana, and again became associated with Mr. Shirk in the merchandise business, and still later became connected with J. H. Jamison, engaged in the handling of such produce as fruits, butter, eggs, etc., and also in the packing of pork. In 1870 Mr. Dukes bought the Holman farm, adjoining the corporate limits of the town of Peru, and upon this property in the fall of 1897 oil was first discovered.

There have been few industries, if any, pertaining to the commercial and industrial prosperity of Peru that have not felt the influence of Mr. Dukes, and in the course of time he amassed a considerable fortune as the result of his operations. From his ample means he has contributed to the support of all laudable enterprises that have been promulgated in Peru and his benefactions have been many and varied in their nature.

In 1877 Mr. Dukes was appointed assignee of the Ulrich Wagon Works and in 1881 was receiver of the Indiana Manufacturing Company and became a large stockholder, general manager and secretary and treasurer therein. These two concerns occupied the greater part of his attention during the remainder of his life. From the beginning of Miami county, few men of this district have occupied a more prominent place in its history than did Aaron N. Dukes, and he long maintained an honored and honorable place among the leading men of the city and county.

To his marriage with Mary A. Thomson which occurred in 1858, two sons were born,—Elbert and William, the latter named dying in 1872 when he was ten years of age. Mrs. Dukes died in April, 1898, and on November 14, 1900, he married Mary Rose Thomson, and she survives the death of her honored husband, which occurred on July 5, 1911. He was long a member of the Presbyterian church, and was on the roll of that church at the time of his death, and had started the building of the hospital.

**ELBERT JAMES DUKES.** It would be extremely difficult, if not well nigh impossible, to estimate in any adequate degree the good that resulted from the activities of Elbert James Dukes, lately deceased, during his active and well spent life of forty-nine years. The advocate of education along the most approved and useful lines, he did much for the advance of learning wherever he was found, and he was ever the staunch friend of young men and their guide and adviser in times of stress and struggle. He was a man whose influence in educational, religious, philanthropic and even in political circles was widely felt, and from which more of good to the general public accrued than is to be accredited to the influence and works of the average public man.

Elbert James Dukes was born on August 15, 1860, in Mankato, Min-



nesota, where his father, Aaron N. Dukes, concerning whom appropriate mention will be found preceding this article, was living at that time. When Elbert Dukes was yet a child his parents returned from Minnesota to Peru, which had been the former home of the family, and here he was reared to manhood. His primary education was obtained in the public schools, succeeding which he took a preparatory course of training at Wabash College. He later pursued a full scientific course in that institution, from which he was duly graduated in 1885, and succeeding his graduation he took charge of the musical instrument and sewing machine store which his father had established in Peru some time previous. This work constituted his regular employment and business interest during the remainder of his life, but in no way were his powers of usefulness and service to his fellows circumscribed by his activity in this enterprise.

As a result of his personal friendship with Dr. Dickey, with whom he had come into a close friendly relation during his college career, Mr. Dukes became interested in institute work, and visited Chautauqua, New York. He eventually became assistant manager of the work under Dr. Dickey at Winona Lake, as well as a director of the Chautauqua work. Mr. Dukes was always a wide reader, particularly along educational lines, and in company with his friend, Dr. Dickey, he visited Europe for the purpose of securing suitable speakers for Bible Conferences to be held at various points in America. For years he was engrossed in educational, religious and philanthropic work, and he became widely known, not only in his home district, but throughout the entire country. He was of the Presbyterian denomination and was for years an elder in the church of that denomination in Peru. Politically he was a Republican, and at one time was a candidate for the office of city treasurer, although he was not a man to devote himself deeply to political strife and stress.

As a man, his life was quiet, uneventful and without ostentation of any sort, and it is doubtful if many beyond his immediate family and his more intimate associates realized anything of the scope of the work he carried on aside from his business. Particularly was he interested in the education of young men. Not education alone in the regularly accepted sense of the term, but education along general lines, and of the most practical and suitable order for the individual in consideration. A number of deserving young men were financially assisted by him in the procuring of collegiate education, and have honored their benefactor in displaying characteristics wholly creditable to themselves and to his excellent judgment. Mr. Dukes lived a clean, upright and moral life, and earnestly held before him the precept of the Golden Rule as one of the guides of his life. The last of his days he was a sufferer from valvular heart trouble and it was at Battle Creek, Michigan, where he had gone in the hope of receiving some relief from his sufferings that the end came. He died on October 16, 1909, and was laid to rest in the old cemetery at Peru, where others of his family lie buried.

Mr. Dukes married on March 4, 1886, Miss Ruth S. Baldwin, of Washington, Indiana, the daughter of Rev. Robert R. Baldwin, who was long in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**JOHN C. HITE.** A resident of Peru for the past fifteen years, active manager of the Peru Milling Company, and regarded as the only thoroughly successful miller that this city has ever had, John C. Hite has had a career of many experiences, and interesting changes. He is an Indiana man by birth, having been born in Jefferson county, this state, March 16, 1853.

Since he was fifteen years old he has been left to his own responsibil-

ities and practically all the school education he ever attained was that furnished by the common schools, previous to that time. Probably the most interesting fact in Mr. Hite's life was the manner in which he was started upon his independent career. His father, as will be noted in the following paragraphs, was a man of large business affairs and very prominent in his town. However, he possessed the convictions shared by so many fathers that his son should implicitly follow his advice as to his vocation. The profession of medicine was the calling picked out by the father for the son, and in order to give the boy the proper start the father bought a drug store and established John C. in it as clerk, that being then thought a very successful way to start a young man on a career of medicine. John C. Hite's inclination from his early boyhood was for machinery and the mechanic arts. He explained to his father, as well as a boy can, this inflexible affection and expressed his thorough disinclination for the profession of medicine. After a heated argument, at the conclusion of which, the son received a sound thrashing, the boy ran away from home and never afterward returned. It was in this intrepid fashion that he threw himself upon the world with only his own faculties to guide him.

His first work was handling a dump-cart at \$1.00 a day in the construction of the old Cairo & Vincennes Railroad. He next found work in a flour mill at Metropolis, Illinois, where he attained his first experience in the milling business. While in that town he accidentally picked up a newspaper in which his father had an advertisement offering a reward of \$200.00 for any one telling of the son's whereabouts. This chance paper with its advertisement started young Hite on a hurried exit from the metropolis, and he walked eighty-six miles to Ashley, Illinois. During his winter in that town he suffered with chills and fever, and otherwise had a very hard time. His chief employment was at work in a drug store at Ashley. From there he went to Mount Vernon, Illinois, during the next spring and there began a complete apprenticeship in the milling business, receiving \$50.00 and board the first year, \$150.00 and board the second year, and \$400.00 and board the third year. When he had become a thorough skilled miller, it was in the year 1870, and with the \$400.00 saved from his three years work he went to St. Louis, where he worked at his trade in the old Cherry Street mill for about seven years. For eleven years after that he was engaged in the milling business at Trenton, Illinois. At the conclusion of that time began his career as a miller on his own responsibility, at Lebanon, Illinois, where his enterprise was continued until his mill was burned in 1890. For some years following that he was employed on the Pacific Coast as the "troubleman" for the Allis-Chalmers Company. In 1895, Mr. Hite took the contract for constructing a flour mill at Shawneetown, Illinois, but the foundation selected proved to lie above a deposit of quicksand, and the entire equipment became a total loss, and likewise wiped out all the financial resources of Mr. Hite. Following this somewhat disastrous termination of his independent assets, he became manager of a mill at Charleston, Missouri, as receiver, the milling company having failed for the sum of \$96,000. At the end of twenty-five months, he had not only discharged the indebtedness of the company, but had turned back to the original owners \$16,000.

It was with this work of experience and thoroughly practical ability in the milling business that Mr. Hite came to Peru in 1898. Two weeks later he became an associate of Mr. Hugh McCaffrey in the milling business under the name of the Peru Milling Company. The mill at Peru had previously been a more or less unprofitable enterprise, and as already stated Mr. Hite is the only thoroughly successful miller whose



residence has been in this city, at least for many years. He has brought the plant of the Peru Milling Company up to a state of the highest efficiency, and it is among the most prosperous enterprises in the city. Mr. Hite organized the Indiana Grain Dealers Association, of which he was president for several terms. Subsequently he perceived that this organization was drifting toward centralization, and in order to counteract the dangerous results of this he withdrew from this membership and organized the Indiana Millers Association, and has served several terms as president of this organization.

Mr. John C. Hite's parents were Joseph C. and Elizabeth (Talbott) Hite, the father being a native of Virginia and the mother of Kentucky. After the Civil war Joseph C. Hite had a large plantation near Hickman, Kentucky, operating it with a large force of slaves. When President Lincoln issued his famous emancipation proclamation early in 1863, Mr. Hite bestowed freedom upon every slave upon his place, but through this action incurred the enmity of his neighbors, all of whom were radically pro-southern people. The community practically ostracised Mr. Hite and family. During the remaining years of the war Joseph C. Hite was a steamboat captain on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and during a considerable portion of the time was in the government service. During his early career he had learned the activities of the river in all details by running flatboats laden with produce down the Wabash river, thence into the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans. He was one of a large number of Ohio Valley producers and traders of the times, who sold their crops after transporting them down the river by flatboat, at New Orleans and from that city made their way overland and usually on foot, to their homes in Indiana and other states along the Ohio. As a steamboat captain during the war he ran one of the first boats by the blockade at Vicksburg. During that experience he met General Grant, and ever afterwards they maintained a personal friendship. After the siege of Vicksburg Mr. Hite had charge of the army transports until the close of the war. After the war he continued the steamboating until his company was bankrupt during the hard winter of 1875, and practically all their boats were destroyed by being crushed in the heavy ice at St. Louis. After that serious setback he went to Newport, Arkansas, where he was engaged in the sawmilling and lumber business. It is said that he probably made the first shipment of telegraph poles out of the state of Arkansas. He died at Newport at the age of ninety-two years in 1895.

Mr. John C. Hite of Peru is a loyal Democrat and has served two terms as a member of the city council. He is affiliated with the Masons, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Travelers Protective Association. On July 31, 1876, he married Miss Addie J. Veitch, of Grafton, Illinois. Their three living children are Augustus V., who is at present time general foreman of the Peru Milling Company; Cleo, the wife of W. H. Howell; and Claude E.

LEWIS BAKER. The thriving and attractive little city of Peru, judicial center of Miami county, has attracted within its borders a goodly quota of those sterling citizens who have here stood for many years as able representatives of the agricultural industry, and of this number of honored retired farmers in the city is Mr. Baker, who is here passing the gracious twilight of his long and useful life in well earned repose and amidst pleasing environment and associations. He is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Miami county, which has represented his home for nearly seventy years, and his reminiscences concerning conditions and events of the early day are most graphic and interesting. He has not

only witnessed but has also assisted materially in the development and progress of the county along industrial and civil lines, and his integrity of character as well as his worthy achievement have given him secure place in the confidence and high regard of the people of this favored section of the fine old Hoosier state.

Lewis Baker was born at Lima, the county seat of Allen county, Ohio, on the 2d of October, 1835, and thus is nearing the venerable age of four-score years, though his mental and physical vigor belie the years that have been accredited to him. He is a son of Alfred C. and Mary (Osborne) Baker, the former of whom was born in Virginia and the latter in Pennsylvania. Alfred C. Baker was a representative of a family of English origin, that was founded in Virginia in the colonial era of our national history, and he was a youth at the time when he accompanied his parents on the long and toilsome journey through an almost virtual wilderness to the new home in Ohio, where his father obtained government land and reclaimed a farm from the virgin wilds. Alfred C. Baker continued to devote his attention to farming in Ohio until 1844, when, with courage equal to the repeating of his pioneer experiences, he came with his family to Allen county, Ohio. In the trip from Virginia to Ohio he had made the journey on horseback, and in coming to Indiana he availed himself of team and wagon, the journey having frequently been interrupted by the necessity for clearing a passage through the forests and underbrush and the filling in of marshy spots to enable the wagon to move forward. Upon his arrival in Miami county Mr. Baker entered claim to government land in Erie township, about two and one-half miles east of Peru, which now thriving city was at that time represented by a few primitive houses and mercantile establishments. He obtained one hundred and fourteen acres of land, the greater part of which was heavily timbered, and there set to himself the herculean task of reclaiming a farm from the wilds. He erected as the family domicile a log cabin, twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions, and equipped with the yawning fireplace so common to the pioneer days and so pleasantly remembered by those who still remain to tell the stories of that interesting period of the county's history. The lower part of this fireplace was constructed of stone culled from the land, and the upper part of the chimney was made of sticks and mud, the latter primitive element taking the place of plaster. It may well be understood that in this rude forest lodge happiness and contentment found place and that its narrow walls were wide in their hospitality, for that was a time when neighbors were such in fact and friends were friends. Alfred C. Baker represented the best type of pioneer, as he was of fine physique, over six feet in height, lithe and active, though weighing about two hundred and thirty-five pounds at that stage of his life. He endured the full tension of arduous toil and the many vicissitudes which fell to the lot of the average pioneer, but in the midst of his labors he had the enduring satisfaction of providing for his family and making slow but certain progress toward the goal of independence and definite prosperity. He became, in the course of the passing years, one of the substantial farmers of Erie township, and he was not only rewarded with definite success in material lines but also with the unqualified confidence and esteem of his fellow men. He and his wife were earnest and consistent members of the Baptist church and in politics he was an oldline Whig until the organization of the Republican party, in 1856, when he transferred his allegiance to the latter, thereafter to continue a stalwart advocate of its cause until the close of his life, in 1876, his loved and devoted wife having been summoned to the life eternal in 1873. They became the parents of five children, of whom three attained



to years of maturity, but Lewis is the only one living. One brother, Daniel, died in Andersonville prison during the war. The other two brothers were Samuel and Stephen; the daughter was named Belle.

Lewis Baker gained his rudimentary education in the common schools of his native state and was a lad of nine years at the time of the family removal to Miami county, Indiana, in 1844, so that with the coming of the year 1914 he will have been a resident of this county for seventy years. Well does he recall to memory the conditions and influences of the pioneer days when the family home was virtually in the midst of the untrammelled wilderness, when deer, bear, wolves and other wild animals were much in evidence, including the wild turkeys, which furnished the larders of the pioneers on many occasions. He has never failed in appreciation of the early days of struggle and virtual isolation, for under such conditions every man was the friend and helper of his neighbor, confidence and good will were at all times in evidence and there was much to compensate for the improvements and associations which the march of progress has brought in its train. Mr. Baker has known Miami county thoroughly during the transition periods, has aided in the advancement and has loyally supported progressive movements, but in the gracious evening of his life he often reverts with tender memories to the hallowed associations of the days long past,—the days when his hope and enthusiasm ran high and foreshadowed much of the achievement which has marked his course as one of the world's productive workers. He has seen the flail superseded by the threshing machine, the sickle by the grain cradle and that in turn by the modern harvester, and he recalls the time when the common mode of travel in this section of the state was on horseback, the while canal transportation was in evidence and in high favor before the construction of railroads. He is one of the few remaining of the old pioneers who have not yet "passed within that tent whose curtain never outward swings," and well may be treasured his tales concerning the early events in the history of the county that has long been his home and the stage of his earnest and prolific endeavors.

Mr. Baker had his due quota of experience in connection with felling timber, "grubbing" out underbrush, the planting and garnering of crops and other duties incidental to the work of the pioneer farm, and thus was begotten that "love of nature in her visible forms" that has endured through all later years, with the memories of the arduous toil illumined and brightened in the dim retrospect. He attended the old-time schools during the winter terms and the lessons thus gained quickened a desire for broader mental discipline, which it has been his to acquire through self-application and through long and active association with the practical affairs of life. Mr. Baker is one of the "Grand old men" of Miami county and the conditions that compass him constitute a fitting environment for one who has endured to the full the heat and burden of the day.

On his homestead farm Mr. Baker continued to reside until 1894, when he removed to Peru, where he has since maintained his home and where he is living retired from active labors, save that he gives a general supervision to his farming interests, in connection with which he is the owner of about two hundred and forty acres of fine land, in Peru and Erie townships. He has ever been loyal and public-spirited as a citizen and his allegiance was given to the Republican party from the time of his young manhood until the election of November, 1912, when he asserted his convictions and showed his independence of thought and sentiment by casting his vote in support of the national and local

tickets of the Progressive party. Both he and his wife have been for many years earnest and devoted members of the Christian church.

On the 2d of April, 1863, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Baker to Miss Margaret E. Wible, who was born at Peru, Ind., and who has been his cherished and devoted companion and helpmeet for a full half century, within which she has shared with him the joys and sorrows that must be the portion of all human kind and during which both have been sustained and comforted by mutual love and sympathy, so that they may look with complacency upon the past and the present as they pass forward toward the sunset gates of life. Of their four children two died in infancy; Charles E. is a resident of the city of Sedalia, Missouri; and Conrad L. resides in Peru, where he is actively identified with business interests and is an influential citizen of his native county.

**THEODORE J. SULLIVAN.** Forty-nine years ago, Theodore J. Sullivan established at Peru a blacksmith shop. The contemporaries of Mr. Sullivan at that time have all since passed away, and have been removed from the scene of personal activities either by death or by the changes which are always operating in the business world. Not only has he survived all the men who were in business when he began, but it has been his lot to witness the beginning and the middle and the end of many other enterprises connected with the business history of Peru. He has built his business up from a small beginning, when it was only one among many, until his shop is now recognized under the firm name of Sullivan & Eagle, manufacturers of wagons and carriages, and also of large circus wagons, and it is one of the largest industries of the kind in the city.

Theodore J. Sullivan is a native of Maryland, born in Carroll county, July 2, 1840, a son of Jacob and Margaret (King) Sullivan. Jacob Sullivan, the father, was a blacksmith by trade, and in Maryland built up an extensive business not only in that line but in the manufacture and repair of wagons and all other machinery and implements. His business career was prosperous up to the time of the Civil war, but the troubled conditions of that period practically put an end to his business. He himself was a Union man, and he lived in a community composed principally of southern sympathizers, and that fact alone was prejudicial both to his business and to his social comfort. Perhaps, largely for this reason, in 1865 he moved to Peru, Indiana, where some of his children had located and he remained here at work at his trade until his death.

Mr. Theodore J. Sullivan was reared to manhood in the Village of Wakefield, Maryland, where the schools were such and the family circumstances in such a posture that his advantages were very limited. Under his father's direction, however, he had ample opportunity to acquire a substantial trade, and learned the blacksmithing art thoroughly. With this equipment and experience, at the age of twenty-one, in the fall of 1861 he came west and first located in Miami county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade until 1864, and in April of that year moved and became a permanent resident of Peru, Indiana. For a short time he was in the employ of the I. P. & C. Railway, but then bought the blacksmith establishment of Samuel Heffley. From that time down to the present, Mr. Sullivan has been continuously in business in this city, and is probably the oldest business man in active service and in point of years in continuous work. At the beginning he confined his attention to general blacksmithing, horseshoeing, wagon repairing and such service as a blacksmith shop was supposed to furnish. In time he added a department for the manufacture of wagons and buggies, and



the business prospered steadily from year to year. Since 1884 a large part of the business has been in the manufacture of circus wagons and similar equipment. Mr. George Graff became a partner in the business in 1873, previous to which time he had operated a wood-working establishment in this city. Mr. Graff remained in the firm until 1879 at which date he was succeeded by Mr. Henry A. Eagle, and the firm of Sullivan & Eagle has ever since been numbered among the successful industrial concerns of Peru.

Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Baptist Church and is a Progressive Republican in politics. He served for two years as a member of the city council, and has always been willing to cooperate with the public spirited movements in this community. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic Order of Peru. October 5, 1871, he married Miss Mary A. Deibert, and they are the parents of three children: Arthur J., who died March 7, 1912; Hazen P. and George Oliver.

**JACOB THEOBALD.** Half a century of honorable business activity and citizenship comprises a record such as any man should be proud to possess. It was more than fifty years ago when Jacob Theobald, then a young man, with hardly a dollar to his name, and with only manual trade as his dependence, came to Peru, and began a career which has since brought him a generous success so far as his own material means are concerned, and has also identified his name with much that is profitable and worthy in the community enterprise. Mr. Theobald is one of the foreign-born citizens of Peru, who are not only a credit to their native country, but to the country of their adoption.

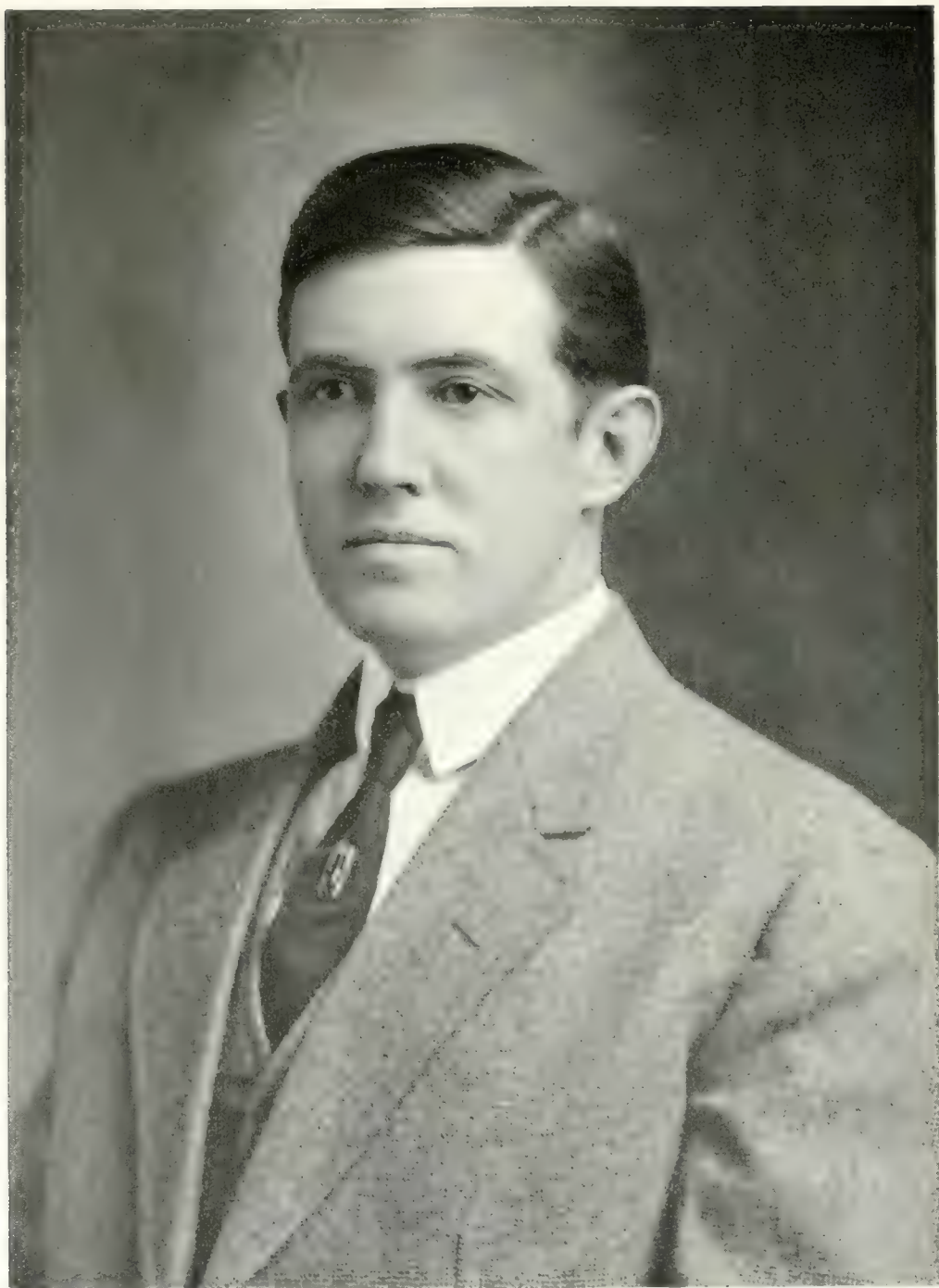
He was born August 19, 1839, in Bavaria, Germany, and was a little past nine years of age when, with his parents, Peter and Catherine (Licht) Theobald, he crossed to America. This eventful voyage was made in a sailing vessel and continued for forty-two tedious days. On reaching this country, the family went west to Wisconsin, where the father was one of the pioneers in Washington county, and where he continued his residence until his death in 1875. The mother passed away five years later in 1880. The father was a substantial farmer, and it was on the old Wisconsin homestead that Jacob Theobald grew to manhood and received his early training for a life work. He entered upon an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, and it has been as a carpenter and contractor that he has been chiefly connected with business affairs in Peru during the last half century.

Mr. Theobald came to Peru in 1861, and from that year to the present has always been an active and honored worker in the community affairs. For thirteen years he gave public service as a member of the city council, but he is most widely known as a skillful workman at his trade and as a business builder, and a man whose business acts have at all times reflected his business integrity. As before stated he came to Peru with scarcely a dollar in his pocket, but by industry and business sagacity has accumulated a competency. In politics he is a Democrat and his church is the German-Lutheran.

In March, 1865, Mr. Theobald married Mary Shireman, who died in 1872, leaving two daughters: Kate, who married Orla Fansler, and is the mother of two sons, Walter and Paul; and Mary, the wife of John Kramer, and the mother of one son, Robert. On August 17, 1874, Mr. Theobald married Martha C. Keyl. To this marriage the following children were born: Ernest, who married Emma Scheips, and is the father of two daughters, Louisa and Ruth; Oscar, who has one son Oscar, born to his marriage with Bertha Prange; Clara and Martha. Mrs. Theobald







*Cy Andrews*

died January 20, 1902, since which time Mr. Theobald has lived in his pleasant home with his two youngest daughters as housekeepers.

With others as his associates in 1900 Mr. Theobald bought the old Huckley foundry, which was erected in 1860 and stood for many years as one of the landmarks in the local industry. In this plant they began the manufacture of sewing machine woodwork. The venture did not prove profitable, and in order to protect his own interests, Mr. Theobald bought the property under sheriff's sale. He at once changed the character of the entire business and began the manufacture of woodwork of all kinds. He also associated with himself his two sons, and since then has developed this plant into one of the most important and profitable industries of Peru. On Christmas day of 1909 he gave to each of his two sons a one-third interest in the establishment, and these sons are now the active managers of the plant. As this brief sketch indicates, Mr. Theobald has touched community enterprise in many ways during his long career here. It is to such lives, honorable and enterprising, that a community grows and becomes important among the centers of trade and population.

**CLAUDE Y. ANDREWS.** One of the noted members of the Peru bar, Mr. Andrews has had a successful career as an attorney in this city for more than ten years, was elected prosecuting attorney soon after locating here and since his service of two years in that office enjoyed a large practice and a generous participation in the field of citizenship and social life.

Claude Y. Andrews is a native of Indiana and was born in Vermillion county, October 12, 1873. His father, William P. Andrews, was a native of the same county and a descendant of Irish ancestry. William P. Andrews with his wife is still living in Vermillion county, and is among the best known citizens of that locality. He, for many years, has been a building contractor. He married Editha V. Puffer, whose father, Reuben Puffer, came to Indiana from Bainbridge, Massachusetts, being one of the early settlers of the Wabash Valley. The parents had two children, both of whom are now living.

Mr. Claude Y. Andrews, who was reared in his native county, attended the district schools there, and then for two years was a student in the preparatory department of Franklin college, this state. Entering the classical department of the same institution he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1898. In 1896 he represented his Alma Mater in the state oratorical contest and at his graduation was valedictorian of his class. During his college career he was also affiliated with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

In 1899 Mr. Andrews entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he completed his first year in about six months, and in 1901, after a thorough course and a creditable record in all his studies, was graduated LL.B.

In September, 1901, Mr. Andrews located at Peru, where he established an office for practice at 11½ South Broadway. He rapidly acquired distinction as a young lawyer and popularity as a citizen and in the Democratic convention of March, 1902, was nominated for the office of prosecuting attorney. At the ensuing November election he was elected to the office and gave two years of faithful and intelligent service. It is noteworthy that Mr. Andrews while prosecuting attorney did the entire work of the office and did not, as was legally permitted, require an assistant to be appointed by the court, and by this course he decreased the expense of the county attorney's office upon the county treasurer. In 1904 Mr. Andrews became the partner of Judge J. T. Cox,



under the firm name of Cox & Andrews. This firm is one of the strongest combinations of legal talent in Miami county.

Mr. Andrews is a member of the Peru Commercial Club, of which he served as president in 1909 and 1910 and at the present time is president of the Peru Federation of Clubs. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Loyal Order of Moose. On November 27, 1901, he married Miss Laura Lukens. They are the parents of one son, Francis Puffer Andrews. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews are members of the First Baptist church of Peru, and have one of the attractive and cultured homes of this city.

**HURD J. HURST.** A son of the Hon. James W. Hurst, whose long career in northern Miami county is sketched elsewhere in this work, Mr. Hurd J. Hurst was born on the old homestead of his father just south of the town of Macy on November 16, 1884. Growing to manhood on that place, he attained his primary education in the Macy schools, and later entered Rochester Normal University at Rochester, this state, where he completed a scientific course in 1903. For three years Mr. Hurst was a school teacher, having charge of the district school in Allen township, his home school. His ambition was for the law, and he pursued his readings with the firm of Lawrence and Rhodes, and after two years of regular attendance in the Indianapolis College of Law, was graduated in June, 1908, and was soon afterwards admitted to the bar. As a young lawyer Mr. Hurst located in Peru, where he has since been engaged in active practice. Since July, 1912, he has been associated with Mr. Oliver F. Rhodes, under the firm name of Hurst & Rhodes.

Mr. Hurst on February 23, 1907, married Miss Florence Hatch, a daughter of John M. Hatch of Allen township, Miami county. They are the parents of two children: Noble Gordon and Carmen Isabel. Fraternally Mr. Hurst is affiliated with Lincoln Lodge No. 523, A. F. & A. M., at Macy, and with the Loyal Order of Moose at Peru.

**JUD R. MCCARTHY.** A solid business enterprise at Peru which reflects the enterprise and ability of its affairs is the men's furnishing and tailoring business conducted by Mr. Jud R. McCarthy, who for the past ten years has been actively identified with and known to a large and discriminating patronage in this line. Mr. McCarthy is a real business builder, having begun his career as a delivery boy, and advancing from one stage to another, until he is now one of the independent and most successful merchants of his home city.

Jud R. McCarthy was born in the city of Peru, February 22, 1880, a son of John and Bridget (Daly) McCarthy. His parents were both natives of County Clare, Ireland, and the father came to the United States when a young man, landing at New Orleans, thence coming by boat up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, and eventually attaining employment at railroad work in Ohio. He came to Peru when the Wabash Railroad was projected to this point, being connected with that enterprise. After his arrival in Peru he married a native of his own county, and continued in railroad service until near the close of his life, when he retired. His death occurred January 23, 1907. His wife passed away September 3, 1898. Further details concerning the history of the parents will be found in the sketch of Mr. John S. McCarthy, published on other pages of this work.

Jud R. McCarthy attained part of his education in the parochial schools and part in the public schools of Peru, and later had the benefit of a course in the Peru business college. He was about fourteen years

of age when he began his practical business career as a delivery boy for H. Andres, the well-known local groceryman. Subsequently he began work of a little higher grade for Hall & Lowenthal, and continued in that employ for a number of years, during which he laid the substantial basis of experience, which has enabled him to be so successful in later years. During that time he acquired a thorough knowledge of the tailoring and men's furnishing business. Then in 1904 he established at Peru, a small shop for men's furnishing and haberdashery. He has built his original undertaking up to be one of the largest and most popular concerns of the kind in the entire county. With the expansion of the business he added in February, 1911, a tailoring department having purchased the tailoring establishment of Werner & Kramer. In December, 1912, Mr. McCarthy bought the Toggery Tailoring Company's establishment at Warsaw, Indiana, and has extended this to a general tailoring and furnishing house similar to the one he conducts in Peru. Thus he has acquired important interests in two of the leading cities in northern Indiana, and is a progressive young merchant with a bright career of much larger accomplishments before him.

Mr. McCarthy in politics, is a Democrat, but has never taken any active part in party affairs, all his attention being devoted to business and home. He is a devout member of the Catholic Church. October 27, 1903, Mr. McCarthy married Miss Lucy Mary McGrady of Peru, a daughter of Charles McGrady.

WILLIAM SCHUYLER MERCER. To feed the people has always been a task requiring all that man possesses of ability, industry and business enterprise. It is in the line of furnishing high class articles of food to the people of Peru and vicinity that Mr. Mercer's business activities have been directed for the larger part of his career. 'Sanitary, wholesome and pure foods have been the object of his endeavor, and in furnishing such a supply to the local communities he has conferred a service probably greater in essential values than that conferred by any other individual force.

William Schuyler Mercer, who represents one of the oldest and best known families of Miami county, was born in the city of Peru, February 3, 1861, a son of Moses and Ann J. (Long) Mercer. The father, who came to Miami county in 1842, as one of the pioneers, was a native of Licking county, Ohio, was reared in his native state, learned the cooper's trade, and was a young man at the beginning of his career when he came to Indiana. The first home was in Wabash, where he was employed at the cooper's trade, but soon afterwards moved to Peru where he followed his regular occupation and subsequently took up work as carpenter. For a number of years he was in the wood-working department of the old I. P. & C. Railway, the old name for what is now the Lake Erie & Western, which in turn is a part of the great New York Central Lines. He was engaged in repair work and other duties in connection with that old railroad during its early operations through this county. During the latter part of his life the late Moses Mercer was associated with the Indiana Manufacturing Company. He was one of the organizers and a charter member of Miami Lodge No. 42 A. F. & A. M. at Peru. He was married after coming to Peru to Miss Ann J. Long, whose father, Peter Long, had located at Logansport during the early pioneer times when the Indians were still numerous in this country. Mr. and Mrs. Moses Mercer were two of the original thirteen who organized the first Baptist church of Peru, their names being now perpetuated on the first roll of membership, and the institution which they then helped to organize has since become one of the largest and



most flourishing religious communities in Miami county. In politics, the senior Mercer was an old-line Whig until the formation of the Republican party, and ever thereafter he voted the Republican ticket, and supported its candidates. He and his wife were the parents of five children, whose names are as follows: Ado J., who is married and lives in Cincinnati; May, now Mrs. Avery P. Tudor of Peru; William Schuyler; Georgia, who married William Neff, and is now deceased and Emmett, who died in early childhood. The father of this family passed away in 1899, honored and respected by all citizens as one of the finest types of the pioneers. His wife died in 1886.

William Schuyler Mercer was reared in Peru and with the exception of one year spent in Chicago has always made this city his home. In the public schools he acquired the substantial of an education up to the time he was fourteen, at which date, in 1875, he began clerking in the well known mercantile house of Killgore, Shirk & Company. He remained with this firm for twelve years, until 1887. At that time, having accumulated a little capital and a large amount of business experience he engaged in the grain business with J. A. Neal, under the firm name of Mercer & Neal. In the spring of 1898 he disposed of his interests to Mr. Neal, and the ensuing year was spent in the grain business at Chicago. On his return to Peru he gave his energies a different direction. He bought the Dubbs Bakery and Restaurant, and was proprietor of this concern until about 1907. At that date he separated the bakery from the restaurant, and built his modern bakery plant at 20-21 East Fifth Street. At that time also was organized the firm of Mercer & Company, his son-in-law, Hazen P. Sullivan becoming the company part of the business. This firm has continued ever since. In 1911 the restaurant was sold, and in the fall of that year Mercer & Company bought the Sanitary Milk Company. The offices of the milk company have been at 623 E. Main Street, until February 1912, at which time the firm bought the William Exmeyer ice cream factory at the foot of Wabash street on the Wabash river. This factory was rebuilt, and given a complete equipment of sanitary and modern devices for the manufacture of ice cream and milk products. At that time the Sanitary Milk business office was moved to the same factory, and since then the business has been conducted under the name of the Sanitary Milk & Ice Cream Company. By these various extensions and reorganizations, the firm of Mercer & Company have come to control a large and flourishing trade, in Peru, and have the reputation of producing the highest class of sanitary food articles.

Mr. Mercer is a Republican in politics and has long been influentially connected with local affairs. He is affiliated with the Masonic order. He was until he moved to Chicago a member of the Peru school board, and it was during his term on the board that the fine school building at West Seventh & Miami Streets was erected. Mr. Mercer was married December 29, 1881, to Miss Sarah E. Fisher, of Mexico, Indiana, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Brower) Fisher. To their marriage has been borne one daughter, Vernice E., who is now Mrs. Hazen P. Sullivan. Mr. and Mrs. Mercer are both members of the Baptist church of Peru.

GEORGE R. CHAMBERLAIN. There are in every community men of great force of character who by reason of their capacity for leadership become recognized as foremost citizens, and bear a most important part in public affairs. Such a man at Peru is George R. Chamberlain, who is prominently identified with financial and commercial affairs of this city, and is now the oldest banker in point of service in the city.







*John C Davis*

Forty-two years ago on February 11, 1872, he entered the employ of the First National Bank as collector and general utility man. He performed the work that was required of him, always did a little more than was necessary, was social, vigilant and enterprising. He became in turn bookkeeper, teller, assistant cashier and on January 1, 1911 was promoted to vice president of this bank now the soundest and oldest institution of Miami county. He is still vice president, and one of the active managers of the institution.

George R. Chamberlain was born at Peru August 4, 1854. George W. Chamberlain, his father, was a native of Lambertsville, New Jersey, and when a boy with his parents moved west to Seneca county, Ohio, locating at Melrose, where he learned the carpenter's trade and worked at it for some time. From there he came west to Peru, about 1850, and in this city married Margaret Morrison. It was as a carpenter that he continued throughout practically all his life, and the house in which his son, the banker now resides was erected by this veteran worker in tools and work. It is an evidence of his skillful work, and the care which he manifested in everything he undertook. He was a man of quiet and unassuming disposition, industrious and kind to all with whom he came into contact. By a career of unswerving honesty and upright character, he maintained to the end the respect and admiration of his fellow-citizens, and his death on August 22, 1895, removed one of the well beloved citizens from this community. His wife passed away September 2, 1899. They were the parents of four children, two of whom are now living.

Mr. George R. Chamberlain who was the eldest of the children has always made Peru his home. As a boy he attended the public schools, and was graduated from the high school with the class of June, 1870. The old alumni records of the Peru high school show that this was the first class and Mr. Chamberlain shares with a few other local residents the distinction of heading the alumni list of the old Peru high school. He began his career soon after graduating on August 1, 1870 when he entered the mercantile house of John S. Hale & Company as a clerk. Less than two years later he entered the First National Bank, with what progress, has already been noted. Mr. Chamberlain is a Republican in politics, and fraternally is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Order of Elks. He was married February 11, 1892 to Miss Alice Harris, a daughter of Andrew J. and Sarah Ann (Day) Harris. To their marriage have been born two children: Alice, now deceased; and Richard Harris. Mrs. Chamberlain and son are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Chamberlain in 1892 assisted in the organization of the Peru Basket Company. This has since been one of the important manufacturing concerns of Peru. It was for a number of years a co-partnership, but Mr. Chamberlain finally bought the interests of the other two partners, and was sole owner from July, 1909 to October, 1911. In the latter year the business was incorporated, and on January 9, 1912, the plant was burned to the ground. The stock holders at once rebuilt, and they have now a most modern and up-to-date and fire proof establishment. The company manufacture a high grade of wares, and give employment to an average of sixty persons. Mr. Chamberlain is also owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Peru township.

JOHN C. DAVIS. For a full half century has this well known and honored citizen been a resident of Miami county and he is a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of this favored section of the Hoosier state, where his parents took up their abode when he was a lad



of thirteen years. His entire active career was one of close and effective identification with the great basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing, and he has long been one of the prominent representatives of the same in Miami county, where he still owns his extensive and valuable landed estate, though he is now living virtually retired in a pleasant home in the city of Peru, the judicial center of the county. A man of broad views, great civic liberality and steadfast character, Mr. Davis has ever held the unqualified confidence and esteem of the people of Miami county, and this has been shown emphatically in his being called to the important office of county commissioner, in which he has served three terms, having first been elected in the Centennial year, 1876, and his third term having been through his election in 1902. He has at all times given zealous co-operation in the furtherance of measures and projects advanced for the general good of the community, along both civic and material lines, and has a deep and abiding interest in and appreciation of the county that has been his home since the pioneer days.

Mr. Davis claims the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity and is a scion of honored pioneer families of that commonwealth. He was born in Madison county, Ohio, on the 8th of September, 1838, and is the only child of Samuel and Zuba (Patterson) Davis, the latter of whom passed to the life eternal about two months after his birth, she likewise having been a native of Ohio. Samuel Davis was born in Ross county, Ohio, where his parents had established their home under the conditions and environment of the early pioneer epoch, and this sturdy citizen lived an unpretentious and worthy life of industry and definite achievement. He never wavered in his allegiance to farming and stock-raising and for many years was an extensive grower of and dealer in live stock. For his second wife he wedded Miss Martha Smith, and of their five children only one is now living, Mary C., who is the wife of Columbus Baltimore, and who resides in Peru, Ind.

In the year 1852 Samuel Davis removed with his family from Ohio to Miami county, Indiana, where he numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Richland township. Here he secured a tract of land that was virtually a forest wilderness, and his first house was of hewed logs and of somewhat better order than the average pioneer domicile of the locality and period. This continued to be the family home until about 1858, when he gave evidence of his increasing prosperity by the erection of a new house, of frame construction, and in this home he continued to reside until his death, in 1866, his wife surviving him by a number of years. Samuel Davis was a man of unassuming ways, was never radical in thought or action, as his views were broad and liberal and caused him to be tolerant and kindly in his judgment. He lived an industrious, righteous life and accounted well to himself and the world, with an ambition that found its exemplification in worthy accomplishment and civic loyalty. His name merits enduring place on the roster of the sterling citizens who have contributed much to the social and industrial development and upbuilding of Miami county. Samuel Davis was originally an old-line Whig in his political proclivities, but he espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization. In 1864, however, his conscientious convictions lead him to support McClellan and Pendleton, the Democratic candidates for president and vice-president of the United States, and his vote on this occasion was the last cast by him in connection with a national election, as his death occurred about two years later. He was an earnest member of the Baptist church, and his faith was shown forth in his daily life, with characteristic avoidance of ostentation and intolerance.

John C. Davis, whose name initiates this review, gained his rudimentary education in the primitive schools of the pioneer days and was

a lad of thirteen years at the time of the family removal to Miami county, Indiana. Here he gained full fellowship with the arduous work involved in the reclaiming and cultivation of the pioneer farm, and in this connection his services were in requisition to such an extent that his further educational discipline of specific order was limited to attending the district school at irregular intervals and during the winter terms only. Like many another who has made individual life justify itself, he has effectually overcome the handicap of early years and through self-discipline and active association with men and affairs has rounded out a liberal education of practical order, as indicated in well fortified views and mature judgment.

From a modest initiation of his career as an independent farmer Mr. Davis worked his way forward toward the goal of worthy success, and the concrete results of his long years of earnest and productive endeavor are shown in his fine landed estate of five hundred and thirty acres, in Richland township, this old homestead including the farm which his honored father secured upon coming to the county more than half a century ago. As an agriculturist and stock-grower Mr. Davis was energetic, progressive and far-sighted, and he has been a leader in the instituting of improved methods and policies in connection with the great industries to which he devoted his entire active career and with which he is still identified, as he maintains a general supervision of his splendid homestead farm, upon which he continued to reside until November, 1902, when he removed to Peru. In the attractive capital city of his home county he purchased his present modern residence, and the same is a favored rendezvous for his host of valued friends, the while Mrs. Davis proved a most gracious and popular chatelaine of the home, which is known for its generous and unostentatious hospitality.

In 1860 Mr. Davis was first enabled to exercise his right of franchise, and on that occasion he cast his ballot in support of the national and local tickets of the Democratic party and in furtherance of its basic principles of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. During the long intervening years he has found no reason to abate his allegiance to the fine old party of Jefferson and Jackson and thus he views with marked complacency the results of the national election of 1912. Showing a vital interest in all that pertained to the general welfare of the community, Mr. Davis was not yet forty years of age when, in 1876, he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, and his service in this capacity proved faithful and effective, marked, as it was, with utmost loyalty and public spirit. In 1882 he was again called to this office, and a score of years later, in 1902, he again became a member of the board, as representative of his home township of Richland. During his last term he zealously supported the movement for the erection of a new court house, and the county council later made the required appropriation for the new building, after the majority of the commissioners had voted in the affirmative on the proposition. In his religious views Mr. Davis is broad and liberal, having tolerance for the opinions of others, and seeing the good in all denominations the while. He is an active member of the Universalist church. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. In his home city he is affiliated with Chili Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons.

On the 20th of September, 1868, Mr. Davis espoused as the wife of his youth Miss Julia Harrison, who was born in Ohio and who remained his loved and devoted helpmeet for more than a quarter of a century, the gracious ties having been severed by her death, on the 16th of December, 1895. No children were born of this union, nor have there been of the second marriage of Mr. Davis, but in his home he has reared three girls, to whom he gave the best of advantages and who have repaid



his generous care with deep filial affection and solicitude. On the 27th of December, 1897, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Davis to Mrs. Ada Miller, who was born in Miami county, Indiana.

ELIJAH WEST has been a resident of this place since he was sixteen years of age, having come here in 1858 with his parents, who settled on a farm in the vicinity of Peru and there spent their remaining days. He was born at Washington Court House, Ohio, on October 9, 1842, and is a son of Amos and Sarah (Christy) West, and a grandson of Eli West, who came to Miami county during the Indian period and was the first of the family to locate hereabouts. Butler township saw the first settlement of the family and there he spent his remaining days. He entered land from the government and built a log cabin into which he moved his family and began to clear and improve the land, ultimately coming into independence and a fair degree of prosperity.

Amos West and his family did not come to Indiana when the father, Eli West, located here, but delayed his coming until about 1858, when he settled some two miles from Santa Fe, in Butler township, where he turned his attention to the farming industry. He was a native of Kentucky, but in the pioneer days had moved to Washington Court House, Ohio, and thence to Indiana. He and his wife became the parents of twelve children, all of whom grew to years of maturity, and all of them married, five of the number being alive today. Elijah West, one of these children, was reared on his fathers farm homes in Ohio and Indiana, respectively. He received but a limited education in books, but he was well versed in farm lore, and early gained an intimate acquaintance with hard work peculiar to the farming methods in vogue in his boyhood. On August 14, 1864, he married Susan Saum, the daughter of Madison and Susan (Morse) Saum, who came to Miami county from Dayton, Ohio, making the trip via canal route and landing here in 1847. Madison Saum settled at Peru and worked at his trade of a brick mason, and it is a noteworthy fact that practically all the houses in Peru built of brick up to 1885 were built by him. He died in 1894, after a residence of forty-seven years in this vicinity, where he was esteemed and honored of all who knew him.

For more than forty years after Elijah West discontinued his farming operations he worked in what is now the Lake Erie Railroad shop in the capacity of a machinist, a trade he had learned in early life. A man of unusual industry and ambition, he was able to save something from his earnings, and early began to accumulate something, so that he has long had the reputation of being a man of means. To him and his wife five children were born, one of the number dying in infancy. The others are James M., Harry E., William F. and Guy E. Concerning Harry E. West, brief mention is made in the following article.

HARRY E. WEST, son of Elijah and Susan (Saum) West concerning whom appropriate mention is made in the preceding item, was born in Peru, on September 8, 1869, and received his education in the public schools of the district. When he was sixteen years old he began clerking in the store of Henry Meinhart, when that establishment was first opened, and he continued with Mr. Meinhart from 1885 until 1906. Since that time he has been a member of the firm of West & Stevens, proprietors of a general book and stationery store. He is recognized as one of the prosperous business men of the place, and has an excellent reputation for business integrity and general good citizenship in and about Peru of which he is well worthy.

Mr. West was married on April 27, 1893, to Miss Georgia Kartholl,

of Peru, her father, Joseph Kartholl, being a pioneer in the drug line in this place. Mr. and Mrs. West have one son, Joseph Kartholl West, born March 17, 1913. Mr. West is a member of the Masonic fraternity, as well as of the Knights of Pythias, Castle Hall Lodge, and with his wife, has membership in the Baptist church.

DR. WILLIAM H. WAGONER has been engaged in practice in Peru since he came out of college, newly fledged in the profession, in 1903, and his success here has been all that one could hope for. He was born at Flora, in Carrol county, Indiana, on December 26, 1875, and is one of the four surviving children in a family of five born to his parents, Henry and Rebecca (Kirkpatrick) Wagoner.

Henry Wagoner is a farmer and both he and his wife are still residents of Flora, where they have long been established. Their son, William H., was reared on the home farm and after attending the public schools in his vicinity, entered the Flora high school, from which he was graduated in 1897. For two years following his graduation he devoted himself to the work of the farm, and from his work thus was enabled to commence his attendance at a medical school. In September, 1899, he entered the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, and he there continued until April, in 1903. During his vacation period in 1902 he had applied himself to the reading of medicine under the direction of Dr. J. P. Hetherington and Dr. J. B. Schultz, of Logansport, and in June, 1903, he received his degree and opened an office for medical practice in Peru, where he has since been located.

Dr. Wagoner is a member of the Indiana and National Eclectic Medical Associations, is a Knight of Pythias, and also has membership in the Loyal Order of Moose. His churchly affiliations are with the Presbyterian denomination, and he has membership in the Peru church.

Dr. Wagoner was married on Thanksgiving day, November 30, 1905, to Miss Carolyn Kuch, of Peru.

DANIEL R. BEARSS. From 1834 to the present time the name Bearss has been as closely identified with the business and public affairs of Peru as probably any other single family name. The founder of this family in Miami county was the late Daniel R. Bearss, who was in all respects a pioneer, and one of the most influential men of his time in Indiana.

Daniel R. Bearss was born in Geneseo, Livingston county, New York, August 23, 1809, a son of Truman, and Sabina (Roberts) Bearss. The father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and the grandfather fought with the rank of Major in the Revolutionary war. The Bearss family moved out to the Ohio Western Reserve about 1811, and in 1815 went to Detroit, Michigan. The youth of Daniel R. Bearss was spent on a farm, and he was a graduate of a log school house. In 1828 he entered the firm of W. G. & G. W. Ewing at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and when his employer opened a branch store at Logansport, Mr. Bearss was selected as one of the responsible managers and remained there until 1832. The next few years were spent in merchandising on his own account in Goshen, Elkhart county, and in August, 1834, with his young wife, whom he had married in Goshen, he came to Peru, which was destined to be his permanent home for the rest of his career. He was for a number of years in partnership in the general merchandise with his father-in-law, Judge Albert Cole. This partnership was dissolved and left Mr. Bearss alone in his merchandising until 1844, at which date was formed the firm of Bearss & Spencer. In 1849 Mr. Bearss sold his interests in the store and after a career of about twenty-



one years in merchandising he finally retired. A number of years ago Daniel R. Bearss was known as the second largest tax payer in Peru. He owned large amounts of city property including the old Broadway Hotel and a number of business blocks. Several farms were included in his possession, and he made his regular home on one of these country places just north of Peru.

During the forties, the late Daniel R. Bearss was one of the loyal and enthusiastic Henry Clay Whigs, and with the organization of the Republican party entered its ranks as a loyal and devoted worker. It is said that his influence was the chief factor in getting the nomination of Schuyler Colfax to his first term in Congress. Mr. Bearss was a member of the state legislature for twenty years, for eight years as representative and twelve as senator. He was too old for military service during the war, but as a member of the legislature he did much to hold up the hands of Governor Morton and by his efforts and vigorous support did much to check the hostile influences which tended to negative the entire loyal government of Indiana.

Mr. Bearss was also prominent in the larger constructive enterprises, and for some time was a director of the Indianapolis, Peru & Chicago Railway, and also of the Wabash Railroad when first built through the country. Those who remember him recall a man of large and commanding stature, and he was noted for his physical strength and endurance. Samuel R. Bearss died at Hot Springs, Arkansas on April 18, 1884, and his remains were laid to rest at Peru, in the family private cemetery at Ridgeview.

On January 14, 1834, at Goshen, Indiana, he married Emma A. Cole, daughter of Judge Albert Cole. Eight children were born to their marriage: George R. and William E., deceased; Albert C.; Oliver J.; Homer D.; Frank W.; Emma, -deceased, who married Chas. J. S. Kumler; and Ella, who died in infancy.

ALBERT C. BEARSS. One of the oldest families of Miami county, Indiana, has a worthy representative in the person of Albert C. Bearss, of Peru, who was born on the old Bearss Homestead farm near to Peru, on September 11, 1838, and who has spent the best part of his life in and about Peru. His career has been one devoted to various enterprises, and his service in the field of politics has been a long and useful one. He retired from active public life in 1905, since which time he has devoted himself to the various interests and is enjoying the quiet of his home in his declining years, after having seen much of the strenuous activities that are ever the attributes of public service of every order.

The son of Daniel R. Bearss, one of the pioneers of this county, whose life is fully sketched in the preceding article, Mr. Bearss comes of a family that was prominent in the state for many years. It is unnecessary to make further mention of his parentage and ancestry here, in view of the preceding article, which goes fully into details concerning the family, attention here being confined to the actual life and work of the subject.

As a boy Albert C. Bearss attended the small brick school on Fifth street in Peru, and when he had finished with the public school training possible at that time, he followed a preparatory course at Kenyon College, which he attended up to his sophomore year. He then spent a year in Kansas, having started west with the intention of making his way to California, but in Kansas his means failed him and he applied himself to whatever work he could find. Here he witnessed some of the border struggles growing out of the celebrated Kansas-Nebraska bill,

which ordained that these states, once set apart as free soil, should become free or slave states, according as they were settled while in the territorial stage by antislavery or proslavery men. At the end of a year Mr. Bearss returned to Indiana, but in 1860, in company with his uncle, J. O. Cole, he made the long planned trip to California, going via the Isthmus of Panama, and remaining there some seven years. He was employed there as clerk in a store owned by a mining company, but after a short time in that work he bought out a private express route whose business it was to supply express and mail to mining camps, convey gold to the places of shipment designated, etc. After three years he went to Nevada and spent a period of four years in that state in various enterprises. He was a prominent factor in the organization of Nye county, and there with others, located a number of mining claims, upon which he did a considerable of prospect work, with more or less success. It was while in Nevada that Mr. Bearss first became interested in politics, and he was elected a member of the territorial legislature. This legislature, however, never convened, owing to the adoption of the state constitution at that election. However, he was immediately elected to the state legislature, and after a service of one term was elected to the state senate. During this time he continued to keep an eye to his mining interests, which developed very materially, and in 1867 he returned to Indiana. In March of that year he wedded Madeline Lamb, of Coshocton, Ohio, and soon thereafter turned his mind to mercantile pursuits at Rochester, Indiana. After some few years he sold out the business, returning to Peru in 1876 and became a mail clerk on the road now known as the Lake Erie & Western, between Peru and Michigan City. He continued in the work for about two years, resigning his position in 1878. It was about then that, through the request of Benjamin Harrison, then a candidate for the United States senate, that Mr. Bearss became a candidate for election to the state legislature, his election duly following. Soon after the expiration of that term he was appointed special agent of the Postal Department, a position now known as Postoffice Inspector, his headquarters being in Chicago. Mr. Bearss proved himself a most capable official and held the office until the election of Grover Cleveland in 1884. When Mr. Cleveland was inaugurated Mr. Bearss was in Austin, Texas, engaged in the discharge of his duties, and he wired his resignation from that point, returning soon after to Indiana and to Peru. For four years he devoted himself to the care of his farm in the vicinity of Peru, and in 1888 he was one of the two delegates from his Congressional District, that nominated General Harrison for President, and in the year following he was appointed inspector in charge of the Cincinnati Division of Postoffice Inspectors, comprising the states of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. He held this responsible position until the second election of President Cleveland, when Mr. Bearss again resigned his commission. Once more he returned to his farming interests, and in 1897 became postmaster at Peru, a position that he held for eight years, giving a careful and efficient administration of the duties of the office. Since he retired from that berth, Mr. Bearss has confined himself and has shown himself as capable in his farming operations as he did in his public service.

Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bearss, two died in infancy, the others being Frances B., the wife of Emmett A. Gould, and Helen B., who married Theodore Ensel and has one child, Madeline Bearss Ensel. Mrs. Bearss died in March, 1907, and her passing was mourned by a wide circle of friends in the community where she had long been known and loved.



DOUGLAS MONROE BUTT. Few of the old-time Miami county families have prospered and lived such influential lives as the Butt family, which came here during the very early days, and took their share of the hardships and the strenuous labors which were necessary to the establishment of homes in that period of history. The name is well known in different sections of the county, and one of the prosperous citizens, representing the third generation of the family in Miami county is Douglas M. Butt of Erie township.

Mr. Butt was born in Erie township, on the twenty-eighth of October, 1860, a son of Elias and Mary (Waltz) Butt. The grandfather was Wm. Butt, the founder of the family in this section. The father was born in Ohio, in 1831, and accompanied the family to Indiana about 1846. Their first location was near Fort Wayne, and they reached that locality by driving across the country, with a yoke of cattle. After two or three years the grandfather came on to Miami county, and located in Erie township. Their settlement was in the woods, and the first home was the typical log cabin. This home was on the banks of the river, and the fateful experience of the family during its early years in this county, indicate some of the hazards with which the early settlers had to contend, in addition to the hardships usually mentioned. Soon after locating here, eleven members of the family were stricken and died of typhoid fever. The grandfather as soon as he reached the county began clearing his land by chopping, burning, and clearing off the timber. He had very little means, and all members of the family worked hard together in order to get land for cultivation, and provide for the wants of existence. The first land occupied by the Butt family was secured from a man who had entered it as government land. In the first log cabin, which stood near the river, two uncles of Mr. Douglas M. Butt were born. In those days the principal market center for this country was at Fort Wayne, and they took their produce to that place by canal boat, the canal furnishing the practicable route for all travel and transportation in those years. The Indians still occasionally roamed through the forest, and deer and other wild game were still plentiful. After the death of the grandmother from typhoid, the grandfather was again married, and at his death the estate was divided. Daniel Butt, an uncle of Mr. Douglas M. Butt, received that part of the homestead on which the dwelling stood. Elias Butt, the father received twenty-six acres of land from the estate which was the regular share for all of the children. He had in the meantime bought one hundred and forty-four acres, and thus took up the practical work of a farmer. On his land stood a small brick house, which had been erected by an old Indian, named Frank Godfrey. In that structure the family had their home for about eighteen years. The father then moved to his present residence, which had been erected before he bought the land.

Mr. D. M. Butt spent the first twenty-two years of his life on the home farm, and received his education partly in Erie township, and partly in Peru township. It was the usual public school education, received as a result of attendance chiefly during the winter seasons, while the rest of the months of the year were spent in the work of the farm. After his marriage he worked for his father a couple of years, and then bought thirty acres of land. Selling that he bought his present farm in Erie township of one hundred and thirty-five acres. This is now a highly developed estate, and one of the most attractive farms in that community. Mr. Butt has placed practically all the improvements upon it, consisting of good buildings, fences and other facilities for modern farming.

Mr. Elias Butt, the father, is still living at the venerable age of 82 years, and his wife is seventy-nine years old. One of the most successful men of Miami county, is Elias Butt. He has accumulated more than







*Rugby*  
PHOTO

"HIGHLAND LODGE"  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. DOUGLAS M. BUTT



DOUGLAS M. BETTY'S FAMILY GROUP





seventeen hundred acres of land, and has made many wise investments. Mr. D. M. Butt has served his township in the office of trustee during the years 1903 to 1906. In politics he is a Democrat. He has also served on the Board of Equalization. Fraternally he is affiliated with Miami Lodge No. 52, I. O. O. F. and with Lodge No. 67 of the Masons, and has passed all the chairs in the Odd Fellow Lodge.

On October 12, 1882, Mr. Butt married Rebecca Marken, a daughter of Gideon Marken. The four children born to their union are mentioned as follows: Charles E. was educated in the Erie township schools and was a student in the Peru high school. He is one of the practical young agriculturists of the county and wedded Miss Nellie Thrush and they have two daughters, Frances and Georgia. Mr. Butt is a high Mason, being a member of the Blue Lodge, Council and Chapter, same as his father and he politically is a Democrat. His wife is a member of the church. Lora A. was educated in the common schools and was also a student in the Peru high school. She wedded Earl Bosswell, a farmer, and they are residents of Perry township. They have two children, Hampton and Olga. Mr. and Mrs. Bosswell are members of the church and he is a member of the Masonic fraternity and politically a Democrat. Floyd B. was educated in the township schools and is a practical farmer and stockman and resides at home. He is also a Mason and a Democrat. Zella F., the youngest child, has finished the common school course and is now a student of the Peru high school, a member of the class of 1915.

Mrs. Butt is a native of Erie township, Miami county, born May 30, 1864, and was reared and educated in her home county. She is a member of the United Brethren church and a noble mother and true and faithful wife.

The beautiful and stately home residence of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Butt is known as "Highland Lodge" and it is as modern as any city residence, and its portals are ever open to their numerous friends in Miami county.

**LOUIS NELP.** A business man whose name has been in the directory of leading merchants of Peru for many years, and whose dealings have always reflected the finest commercial integrity, Mr. Louis Nelp has been a resident of this city for upwards of thirty-five years, since he was a boy of seventeen.

Louis Nelp was born in Brooklyn, New York, May 7, 1862, and was one of nine sons, all the rest being deceased, born to Sebastian and Philippine (Hoffman) Nelp. Sebastian Nelp was born in Bavaria, Germany, and when a young man came on board a sailing vessel to America. On the same vessel came the young lady, who afterwards became his wife. Sebastian Nelp was a hatter by trade, and followed that occupation all his career. His death occurred March 1, 1889, and his wife survived many years until her death on September 6, 1912.

Louis Nelp spent his early days in his native city, and while growing up there attended the grammar schools. With this education and such business experience as he had picked up, he came west in 1879 to Peru, where with two brothers, August and George, had located in 1871 and was engaged in the meat business. These brothers were very energetic and successful men in their trades, and continued in business in Peru until the close of their lives. They were both married, but George was the only one who left a descendant, she being Nellie, the wife of Thomas Hayes, a dentist of Chicago. Under his brother's supervision Louis Nelp learned the butcher's trade, and after their death he succeeded to the business founded by them. He has continued his establishment on the high standard maintained by his brothers, and has met



all the new demands of the trade during the many years in which he has directed his local shop.

Mr. Nelp is prominent in local politics, as a Republican and for six years was chairman of his precinct. He was married on January 15, 1889, to Henrietta Borchers, a native of Oldenburg, Germany. To their marriage have been born four children, namely: Louis, Edith, William and Jerome. Louis, the oldest of the children, married Marjorie O'Brien, and is now associated with his father in business. Mr. Nelp is fraternally affiliated with the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, and he and his wife are members of the Peru First Baptist Church.

EDWARD B. REAM AND FRED S. REAM. Those of this name in Miami county, Indiana, are the descendants of Michael Ream, who was a hatter in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, during his early life, later engaging in the farming industry in Holmes county, Ohio, to which place he moved in about the year 1834. He was twice married, and to his first union there was born six children, while to his second marriage twelve are accredited. His second wife was Catherine Wyant, and she was the mother of those of the name of Ream who came to Miami county. Only three of these, however, came here to make permanent homes, they being William, who came in 1844; Silas Augustus, in 1850, and Samuel in 1852. Silas A., be it said at this juncture, is the only one now living, and he has reached the age of eighty-seven years.

William Ream married Harriet Schultz and they became the parents of five children that grew to years of maturity, they being John; Michael W., deceased; Alfred A., died June, 1913; Thomas and Frank, those living being actively connected with railroad work in one capacity or another.

Silas A. Ream, in addition to his railroad work, was for a time identified with grocery interests in Peru. He married twice. His first wife was Louisa Winter, and they became the parents of three children, namely: Horace W.; Charles A., and a girl that died in early childhood. His second wife was Martha Wilson, and they became the parents of three children, of whom two daughters are now living.

Samuel Ream married Elizabeth Porter and the names of the three of their children that grew to maturity were: Samuel, Elizabeth and Charles, the daughter being the only surviving member at this time.

Michael W. Ream, the son of William Ream, bore an exceptionally praiseworthy military record. Concerning him, it may be said, that he was born in Holmes county, Ohio, January 8, 1842, and was employed as an engineer on the old I. P. & C. Railroad. On June 19, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company B, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and with his command participated in some of the famous battles of the Civil war. He received a gun shot wound through the lungs at one time, was captured and incarcerated in the prison at Belle Isle, was later exchanged and finally was honorably discharged on July 1, 1864, at the expiration of his term of enlistment. He finally died at the Soldiers' Home, at Marion, Indiana, on January 8, 1912. He married Minnie E. Marquis, and to them were born nine children, as follows: William A.; Edward B.; Fred S.; Gale H.; Daisy, now deceased; Arlie E., now Mrs. Will McCarthy, of Washington, Indiana; Glen M.; George, who is deceased; and Vivian. Of these, Edward B. and a sister are the only ones married. Edward was married on June 27, 1907, to Miss Minnie Tillett, the daughter of H. J. Tillett.

Thomas E. Ream, a son of William Ream, founded in 1902 the laundry business now being successfully conducted by his nephews.







“LOCUST CREST”  
RESIDENCE OF MRS. JESSIE F. NASH



Edward B. and Fred S., who, it may be mentioned here, are twin brothers. They succeeded Thomas E. Ream in the business in 1905, and five years later added dry cleaning to the business, so that their establishment was the first in Peru to conduct a fully equipped laundry and dry-cleaning business. They are careful and prosperous business men and merit the esteem and regard of the best citizenship of Peru, which is unhesitatingly accorded to them.

CARLETON C. STEVENS, who died in September, 1875, in Peru, was a native of Greenfield, Indiana, born in 1831, and he was a son of Isaac Stevens, who was a farmer by occupation and who lived in Wisconsin for a time. The mother of Carleton Stevens died when he was born, and he was reared by the Cottingham family of the Noblesville locality. Such education as he secured was of the character and quality provided by the public schools of his boyhood period, and he was trained in the work of the farm from his earliest boyhood on. When his father remarried and had moved to Wisconsin, the boy joined his parent and continued with him until 1849, when he and two brothers, Ira and John, came to Peru. In the rush to the California gold fields, he went there in '49, making the trip via the Isthmus of Panama, and the years he remained there resulted in some financial profit to him. He returned to Indiana in 1851, once more locating in Peru, and here he embarked in the grocery business, as well as carrying on a huckstering trade. In about 1870 he disposed of the business and moved to the country in Peru township, locating on what was known as the old Rettig farm.

Mr. Stevens married Catherine Rettig, a daughter of George Rettig, who was one of the early pioneers of Miami county, and they became the parents of six children, named as follows: Frank I.; George R.; Jesse T., who is mentioned more fully in the succeeding article; Katy K.; John C.; and Anna C. Of these, all are living with the exception of George R.

JESSE T. STEVENS was born in Peru on May 27, 1868, and received his education in the public schools of his time and place, such as they were. Early in life he began clerking in the book store of Pliny M. Crume, and he continued there for some time. After he had attained man's estate, he traveled extensively throughout the United States for about two years as salesman for the Peru Electric Manufacturing Company, after which he was employed for eight years in the carpet department of the John S. Hale Department Store in Peru. In January, 1905, in association with Harry E. West, mentioned elsewhere in this work, he purchased the Crume Book Store, in which he had begun his business career in his boyhood days, and he has thus continued to the present date, the firm of West & Stevens enjoying a pleasing patronage in the city, and the individual members standing well in business and social circles.

Mr. Stevens was married on June 17, 1891, to Miss Lizzie Hauk, and to him and his wife have been born two daughters: Helen H., born February 22, 1893, and now a student at Mercy Hospital, Chicago, and Harriet E., born March 24, 1898, who is making a thorough and practical study of music.

Mr. Stevens is a member of the Elks, the Moose and of the Masonic fraternity, and the family are members of the Presbyterian church.

BENOMA NASH. In the death of Benoma Nash at his home in Erie township on May 8, 1908, Miami county lost one of its prosperous and energetic citizens, a man who had spent all his life in this section of



Indiana, was an industrious and capable agriculturist, and made a creditable and honorable record in all his transactions and relations with his fellow men. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Jessie Nash, and a family of children and Mrs. Nash has proved herself a capable manager of the fine farm estate on which Mr. Nash spent his latter years. Benoma Nash was born in Tipton county, Indiana, November 24, 1858, a son of Robert and Ruhanma (Styers) Nash, both of whom were natives of Rush county, Indiana. Benoma Nash, though he received only a common school education, was always a student, and was one of the best informed men in his community. He spent his early life on a farm, and when he started out for himself it was in the vocation of farmer, which he pursued steadily and prosperously all his career.

Mr. Nash married Jessie F. Smith, a daughter of John D. and Pheoba (McFarland) Smith. Her grandfather was William Smith. The parents were both natives of Ohio and of Scotch and English descent. John D. Smith was one of the pioneers of Tipton county, and was one of the first county commissioners, having been elected in 1844 at the time of the organization of the county. The children of John D. Smith by his first wife were: David, Benjamin, Mellisa, Sarah, Ellen, Nancy, William and John, both of whom died in infancy, Mary, John, Jessie, Cassius, and Oscar and Laura. John D. Smith spent all his career in Tipton county, served as a trustee of his township, and died in 1895 on the old farm in Jefferson township of Tipton county. During the period of the Civil war he sent three of his sons to the front in the Union army. The youngest was only seventeen years old, and was made a drummer boy, but that position did not satisfy him, and he soon was given a musket, which he carried throughout the rest of the war. The late John D. Smith was a Republican in politics.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Nash settled on a farm in Tipton county, their place comprising eighty acres. They farmed the land with practically no improvement except some buildings, and Mr. Nash applied himself industriously to ditching and draining, and stood a great deal to develop the farm during their residence of six years. From there they moved to the farm occupied by Mrs. Nash's mother, where they lived for two and a half years. Her mother died in 1908. In 1898 they left the old homestead in Jefferson township of Tipton county, and came to the farm in Erie township of Miami county, where Mr. Nash died. This is now a model farm, and since Mr. and Mrs. Nash took possession a large barn has been erected, the house has been improved, and many other changes have been made for the betterment of the place. Mr. Nash had two hundred and forty acres in the homestead, and April 13, 1913, Mrs. Nash purchased 118 acres and the total acreage is three hundred and fifty-eight acres of land.

The following is the record of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nash. The eldest is Frank L. He received his diploma from the public schools, then took up an agricultural course at Winona, Ind. He is now a resident of San Francisco, Cal. He has been employed in a large wholesale fruit house for the last two years, and is worthy of the responsible position. Politically he has been a Republican.

Clytis, the daughter, graduated from the eighth grade at age of fourteen and was a student in the Peru high school for three years and has also taken musical instructions. She wedded Levi Wilson, one of the young farmers of the county, residents of Erie township. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the United Brethren church.

Robert Smith graduated from the public schools at the age of thirteen and then from the Peru high school in the class of 1913, at the age of seventeen. He is now a student in Purdue University and is unusu-

ally bright. Walter Hartley is in the eighth grade. Jessie C. is in the fifth grade and has taken instrumental music. Benjamin E. died June 3, 1910. The older children were all born in Tipton county, and the others in Miami county.

Mrs. Nash is giving her children the best of educational training. She is a member of the Presbyterian church of Peru, Indiana, a member of the Ladies Aid Society and also a member of the Eastern Star. Her beautiful country seat, and estate is one of the modern homes of the township fitted with all modern equipment, and is known as "Locust Crest," the abode of hospitality.

The late Mr. Nash was a member of the Quaker faith. He served as superintendent of the dredging work in this section of the state, and was a progressive citizen who believed in development and improvement along all lines. At different times he used his efforts to get telephone service to his district, and was the type of citizen whose activities and influence count for a great deal in the advancement of a county.

FRANK W. BEARSS, son of Daniel R. Bearss, appropriate mention of whom appears elsewhere in this historical work, was born in the house in which he now resides, on the old Bearss homestead, just outside the corporate limits of the city of Peru, on August 9, 1846. His early schooling was obtained in the little brick schoolhouse at the corner of Fifth and Main streets, and later he was privileged to attend the Seminary on Third street. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-five years old, and for seven years thereafter was in the railway mail service. He then returned to farm life once more and in that industry has practically continued to the present time, about four years of the time being spent in Fulton county.

He has been a man of considerable prominence in the political affairs of his district, and was nominated by the Republican party for the Sixty-third General Assembly, and while the county was hopelessly Democratic, he was elected by a majority of two hundred and eighteen. He was chairman during his service in the house of the so-called "River Bill Committee," and was also awarded prominent recognition as a member of certain other of the most important committees of the house.

Mr. Bearss was married on June 17, 1872, at Kendalville, Indiana, to Desdemona Iddings, the daughter of Hiram Iddings, one of the more prominent men of Noble county, and to their marriage were born six children, as follows: Mary Amoret, who died in infancy; Hiram Iddings, born April 13, 1875, now a captain in the regular marine service; he is a veteran of the Spanish-American war, served in the Philippines, was recommended for "Brevet Major, or Medal or both" for distinguished gallantry in action, and is now stationed at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia; Braxton Higgins, another son, was born December 3, 1876, and is engaged as purchasing agent for the Stone & Webster Construction Company, of Boston, Massachusetts; Emma Amoret, now the wife of Oscar Muhlfeld, is a resident of Boston, Massachusetts; Lucy Rowena was born on December 27, 1882, and Desdemona Frank, the youngest of the six, was born on November 18, 1890.

Capt. Hiram I. Bearss was married to Louise Madden, of New York City, and they have one daughter, Louise Iddings Bearss, who was born in the Philippines. Mrs. Muhlfeld is also the mother of one daughter, Emma Amoret, named for herself, but there are no other grandchildren in the family. The Bearss family are adherents to the Presbyterian faith.



CHARLES FOOTE AND CARTER FOOTE, men of Connecticut nativity, were among the oldest settlers of Miami county, Indiana. They were the sons of Roger Foote, who it is believed was a great-grandson of Nathaniel Foote, who was the first American progenitor of the family. He was born in Colchester, England, in 1593, and in 1630, ten years subsequent to the coming of the good ship "Mayflower," he made his way to the American Colonies, and located at Watertown, Massachusetts. He was a member of the Massachusetts Bay Company during his residence there. He later moved to Weathersfield, Massachusetts, where the remainder of his life was passed, and where he died.

Full data concerning the house of Foote from the time of Nathaniel down to Roger, the father of Charles and Carter, are not available at this writing, but enough is known to establish the family as one of colonial ancestry beyond all doubt.

Carter Foote in young manhood took up his residence in Painesville, Ohio, and Charles, his younger brother, made his home with him. The latter was born on July 1, 1817. He was a young man when he first came to Indiana from Ohio, and locating in Peru engaged in the general merchandise business on the Canal, at the present site of the Commercial Hotel. Some two or three years later his failing health induced the brother Carter to come to Peru and look after the business founded by Charles, who left Peru in search of health. A year later he returned, and there made his home for the remainder of his life. He engaged in merchandising and pork packing under the name of Smith & Foote, and was thus occupied when death claimed him on October 25, 1862. He married Caroline Zern, who was born in Pennsylvania on July 6, 1831, and died March 1, 1897, and to them were born five children. The only survivor of the number at this writing is Jesse Foote, a resident of Peru. Charles Foote was an honored and honorable citizen of Peru as long as he continued in it. He was an Episcopalian in his religious faith, and in earlier life was a Whig in his political views, but later became a Democrat. Always a man of delicate health, he was the possessor of a strong will and sturdy determination, and his life was doubtless prolonged a number of years by reason of these faculties. His career as a citizen and as a **business man** was ever above reproach and his long identity with Peru left an indelible impress upon the passing years.

Carter Foote was a man of more robust constitution than was Charles, but both died of consumption, the death of the first named occurring in 1865. He married Emily A. Forbes and to them were born nine children, Mrs. Mary Harter of Peru being the only one living in Miami county today. One son, Horace Foote, while attending college at Crawfordsville, responded to the first call of President Lincoln for troops for the suppression of the Rebellion. He served all through the war and rose to the rank of Major, being now a resident of San Jose, California.

JOSEPH A. FAUST. A practicing lawyer in Peru, Indiana, since he was admitted to the bar in 1877, with the exception of a brief time when he was located in Cincinnati, Joseph A. Faust is one who has taken a prominent place in the life of this community, and gained a name and place for himself solely through his accomplishments and his citizenship. He is a native product of the state, born in LaFayette, on June 15, 1851, and he is a son of Joseph A. and Elizabeth (Bufert) Faust.

Concerning them, it may be said that the father was a native born German, Bensheim, Germany, being the place of his birth, and he came

to America when a young man. In his boyhood in Germany he had learned the trade of a cooper, and on coming to American shores, he settled in Indiana and established himself in the cooperage business, which, for the most part, he followed throughout the remainder of his life. In those days the work of the cooper was practically all done by hand, the materials being taken from the forests and worked into shape in the shop of the cooper,—far different from the processes in vogue today. Mr. Faust brought the first bucking machine to Miami county, and as long as he gave his attention to that work, was regarded as a first class workman and cooper. It is said that a few of his hogsheds and casks are still in existence in this county, and are offered as examples of the skill and honest workmanship of the man to this day.

Mr. Faust came to America wholly untaught in the English language, and he learned to read, write and speak the English fluently in a comparatively brief time after coming here. He was ever a great reader and devoted a considerable attention to the study of the German classics. A Roman Catholic, he was ever a stanch adherent of the faith, and he reared his family in the precepts of the church. He was twice married. Three children were born of his first marriage, Joseph A., John G. (deceased) and Henry J. The wife and mother died on April 22, 1858. In later years he married Louisa Guendling who was a daughter of John Guendling, and to them were born eight children. The father died on May 3, 1893.

Joseph A. Faust, with the exception of the years from 1890 to 1896, has always made his home in Peru. He was educated in the Catholic and public schools and was a member of the first graduation class of the Peru high school, that event occurring in 1870. Forty-nine years later Mr. Faust was a member of the school board of Peru that condemned and caused to be razed the building from which he was graduated, and he aided very materially as a member of that board in the erection of the present fine structure. Following his graduation Mr. Faust was occupied in teaching German, philosophy and astronomy in the high school and still later, not finding educational work altogether to his liking, he was employed in a dry goods store for a few years. He also gave some few years to the cooper's trade, which he had learned as a boy under his father's able instruction. It was during this time that he took up the study of law, and he was admitted to the bar in April, 1877, where he has been engaged in practice in this city with the exception of some time spent in Cincinnati.

Mr. Faust is a Democrat, and has served as chairman and secretary of the Democratic County Central Committee. He was twice a member of the Peru school board, serving on the board as secretary of the body, and each time he resigned from service in that capacity to accept the city attorneyship. While acting on the board he helped to design and plan the present magnificent high school building that is the pride of Peru, and he gave to that work a generous share of his time and attention. Mr. Faust was first elected to the office of city attorney in June, 1900, and served two years in that post. In 1904 he was elected a second time, and his third election to the office followed in 1909. He assumed the official duties of the office on January 3, 1910, and is still acting for the city as its legal adviser, his term expiring the first Monday in 1914.

Mr. Faust was married on May 13, 1879, to Mary Jane Comerford, and to them have been born seven children, namely: Mary Elizabeth, wife of Charles E. Gosselin of Kansas City, Missouri; Mary Agnes;



Anna Louisa, deceased; Mary Josephine; Clara Gladys; and Joseph Anton; and Rose.

If Mr. Faust may be said to have a hobby, it will unquestionably be his interest in numismatics. He has a splendid collection of rare coins, with a decided penchant for the quest of trade dollars, and he furthers his work along that line by his membership in the American Numismatists' Association.

WILLIAM H. AUGUR, of Peru, a resident of this city for nearly a half a century, and who for eight years and seven months was clerk of the courts of Miami county, was born in Laurel, Franklin county, Indiana, December 22, 1850, one of the eleven children of whom three are now living, born to the marriage of William S. Augur, a native of the State of New York, and Jane McKown, who was born in Pennsylvania. William S. Augur was a butcher by occupation, a vocation which he followed principally throughout life. He died in 1855, his widow surviving him until 1895. They were both born in the year 1810.

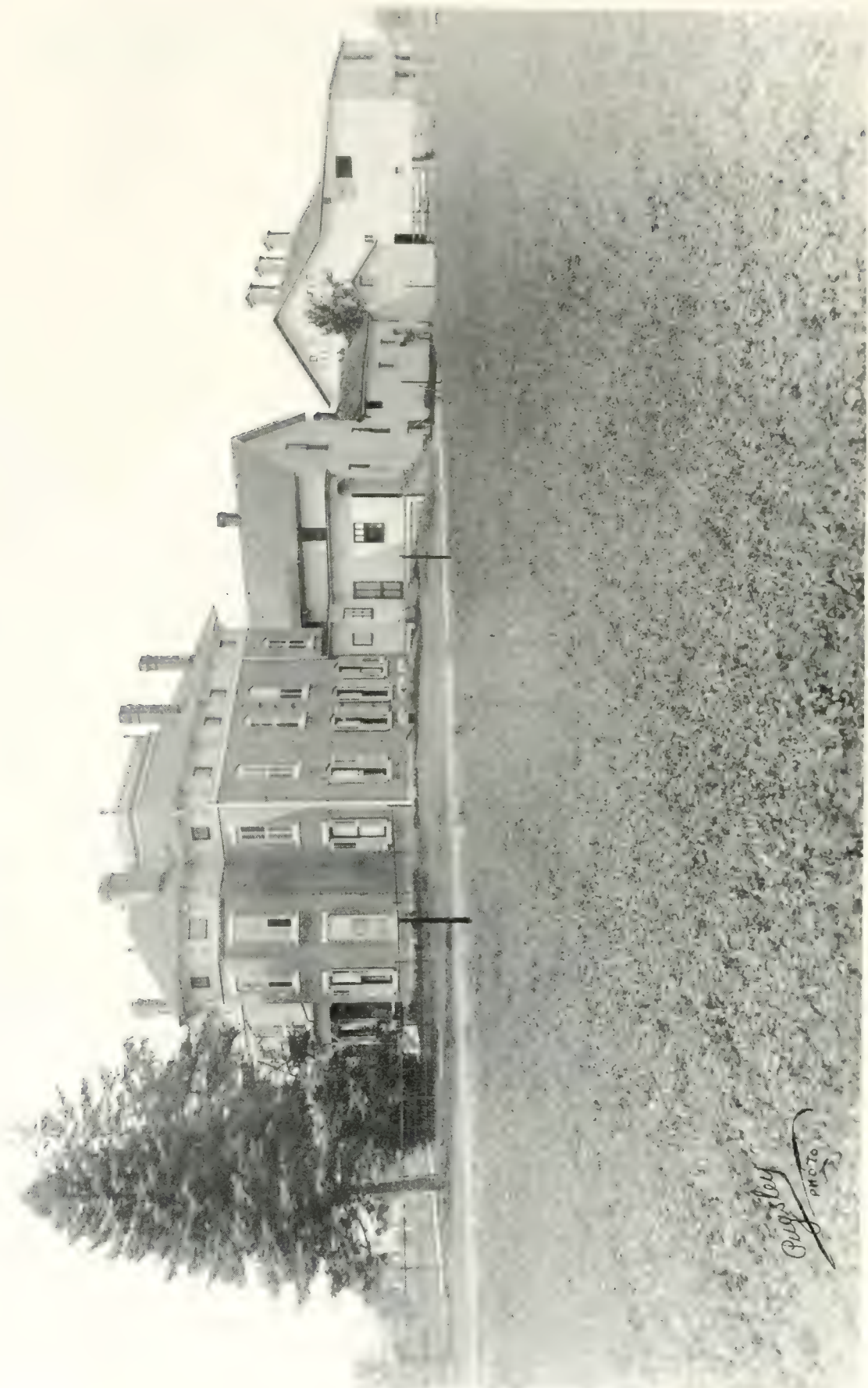
William H. Augur lived in his native county until he was fifteen years of age, and after securing his primary education in the public schools attended about five terms in Kuhn & Curran's Academy, at Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1865, he came with a brother to Peru and engaged in the butchering business, which he continued, together with attending school and engaging in railroad work, until 1891. From March of the latter year he was city editor of the *Miami County Sentinel* until 1895, when he became deputy county clerk for Charles R. Hughes, and thus continued until June 6, 1903. In 1902, however, he had been elected to this office, his term to begin January 1, 1904. It was during this time that the Legislative enactment went into effect changing the beginning of an official term to January 1st of each year. Mr. Hughes' regular term having expired June 6, 1903, there was a vacancy to be supplied from the expiration of his term until the newly-elected officer should take his place, and by action of the county commissioners Mr. Augur was appointed to fill this term. After his regular term of four years, he was re-elected for another term of a like period, and his entire administration was marked by the most faithful and conscientious devotion to duty. Mr. Augur has long been prominent in Democratic politics. In 1910 and again in 1912 he was elected chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, and at this time he is directing the affairs of that influential body. By special election he was made city treasurer of Peru in 1882, and in the spring of 1883 was reelected, serving until the spring of 1885. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Royal Arcanum and the Royal Fellowship. For many years he has belonged to the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen of North America, of which he is a member at large. He also belongs to Peru Local, No. 225, American Federation of Musicians.

On December 22, 1873, Mr. Augur was married to Miss Eva Josephine Mason, of Mattoon, Illinois, and to them four children have been born, namely: Ruby Louise, Charles J., Frederick O. and Josephine T., the last named now being Mrs. J. Omer Cole, of Butler township, Miami county. The family are Presbyterians in religion.

When a boy, before the Civil War, Laurel, the native village of Mr. Augur, organized a martial band which became famous throughout the entire country. As a lad he learned to perform on a fife, and he has continued to keep up his practice on this difficult instrument until he has become widely known as a fife musician. It was the Laurel Martial Band, of which he was a member, that escorted the troops raised







“THE VALLEY GRANGE”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. DELBERT HARTER

from Franklin county to their place of starting to the front. In Miami county today, wherever martial music is presented, Mr. Augur participates, at old settlers meetings, Grand Army of the Republic gatherings, and similar ceremonies. He is at present the incumbent of the position of national fife major of the National Association of Civil War Musicians.

**DANIEL AND DELBERT D. HARTER.** Daniel Harter was one of the foremost men of his day in Miami county, and was one of those whose life career was a credit and whose memory will long linger in the minds of those who knew him. He was born in Preble county, Ohio, on March 4, 1834, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Harter, and he came with his parents to Miami county, Indiana, in the year 1849, while yet in his teens. The family located on Section 32, in Jefferson township, and there Jacob Harter died in 1879 and his widow followed him in 1881. The greater part of the life of Daniel Harter was passed amid the pioneer scenes and incidents relating to this particular locality, and the austere upbringing he had in his home, coupled with the rigors of country life, united to produce in him a strong and positive character that marked him as an example of one of the most admirable types of man. His citizenship was one of the highest order, and he bore his full share of the burden of civic responsibility in his community throughout his life. He married on November 21, 1867, Nancy, the daughter of Levi Miller, a record of whose life and work appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Harter died on January 19, 1879, the mother of four children, who are here mentioned with more or less brevity as follows: Dora O. married William F. Stevens and is now a resident of Canada. William E., a resident of Peru; Iva L., and Delbert D., who is mentioned at greater length in a later paragraph.

Mr. Harter was a member of the Church of the Brethren, and his life in its every phase showed forth the influence and teaching of the church of his faith. None was more dependable than he, and the greatest confidence was reposed in him at all times and by all who knew him, his sturdy integrity and right living establishing him most firmly in the good books of his fellows.

He was a consistent Republican in his politics, and though he was never a man who aspired to political notice, he firmly believed it the duty of every man to exercise his right of franchise in the defense of his political principles, regarding that as one of the most distinctive proofs of citizenship, as indeed it is.

Mr. Harter, several years after the death of his first wife, married Mary Johnson, who yet survives him.

Delbert D. Harter, one of the sons of Daniel Harter, and a grandson of Jacob Harter, the pioneer of the days of forty-nine, was born on the old Harter homestead in Jefferson township, on July 1, 1875. He has always resided here and has converted the old place into one of the finest improved farms of the township, and in all probability, the finest in the county. His education was acquired in the public schools, and was not in excess of that accorded to the average youth of his station. He was married on September 2, 1896, to Miss Laura J., the daughter of Everett and Emma (Meek) Smith, and to them one son has been born,—Russell Evett Harter, whose birth took place on September 8, 1897.

Mr. Harter is a stanch Republican in his political propensities, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church. The pretty homestead is known as "The Valley Grange," and is modern in every detail and lighted by acetylene.



ELLIS H. ANDREWS, M. D., a resident of Peru since 1897, is a native of Macy, Indiana, born November 12, 1870. His father, Amos B. Andrews, was born in Pennsylvania, September 20, 1840, and came with his parents to Miami county, Indiana, about the year 1855, settling in Richland township. There he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil War, and upon President Lincoln's first call for volunteer troops he enlisted in the Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. On the expiration of his term of service, he veteranized in Company H, Eighty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, August 9, 1862, and continued to serve with that hard-fighting organization until his honorable discharge, June 9, 1865. The greater part of his military career was under Gen. Thomas, and he was an active participant in many of the great battles of the war, rising to the rank of corporal. On returning to the occupations of peace, Mr. Andrews took up the vocation of school teacher, and later he became engaged in the insurance business. He was a life-long member of the Republican party. In his death, which occurred February 22, 1909, the Grand Army of the Republic lost one of its valued members. In 1866, Mr. Andrews was united in marriage with Miss Sarah C. Derck, who still survives her husband and makes her home in Peru, and they became the parents of five children, all of whom are still living.

Ellis H. Andrews passed his boyhood and youth in attending the common schools and working on farms in the neighborhood of his home. He subsequently became a teacher in the public schools, thus earning the means whereby to further his own studies, and completed his literary education in the Northern Indiana Normal School, at Valparaiso. His medical studies were commenced in 1891 under the preceptorship of Dr. J. W. Newell, of Denver, Indiana, and in January, 1895, he matriculated at the Kentucky School of Medicine. Succeeding this, he attended lectures until June, 1897, when he was elected superintendent of schools of Miami county, and subsequent re-elections brought his service in this capacity up to six years. He was one of the most popular educators Miami county has known, but desired to further his medical studies, and in January, 1901, re-entered the Kentucky School of Medicine, and received his degree in July of the same year. Since that time he has been engaged in active practice in Peru, although he has continued to devote himself to his studies, having taken two post-graduate courses in Chicago. Like his father, Dr. Andrews is a Republican, but the responsibilities of his heavy practice have given him no chance to think of entering the political arena as an aspirant for public preferment. He is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities, and has also affiliated himself with the various leading medical organizations.

On June 8, 1898, Dr. Andrews was married to Miss Ethel Hurst, of Macy, Indiana, and they have become the parents of four daughters: Ruth G., Helen J., Florence E. and Frances C. Dr. and Mrs. Andrews are members of the Baptist Church, and have numerous friends in religious and social circles of Peru.

PLINY M. CRUME. The various activities which have marked the career of Pliny M. Crume, one of the most successful of Peru's business men, stamp him as a man of energy, ability and resource, and one who, no doubt, would have succeeded in any field of endeavor. In this city he has been identified with various enterprises of an extensive nature, in all of which he has met with a full measure of success, but everywhere and at all times he remembers that he has worked hard and that the good things that have come to him have been

attracted by his own effort rather than by any chance of fortune. At the age of seventy years he is still carrying on his daily routine of business, in connection with general insurance, and maintains his position of prestige among the business men with whom he has been associated for so many years. Mr. Crume was born March 4, 1843, on the Wea Prairie, near Lafayette, Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and is a son of Mark and Malinda (Hamilton) Crume.

Mark Crume was a native of Fayette county, Indiana, and came to the western part of the State when it was more thickly populated with Indians than with whites. He was a trader by vocation and traveled up and down the Wabash river and the contiguous territory, bartering with the Indians. On one of his trips he entered three sections of land, one for himself and one for each of his two brothers, but never lived on this land, but spent his last years on Wea Prairie. He took an active part in Democratic politics, and at one time was sent as representative to the State Legislature. Mr. Crume married Malinda Hamilton, and they had five children who grew to maturity, of whom four are still living.

Pliny M. Crume was but one and one-half years of age when his father died, and he was reared in the home of an uncle, Dr. Pliny M. Crume, after whom he had been named, who was a physician widely known in the State of Ohio, his home being at Eaton, Preble county. There Mr. Crume attended the public schools until the age of fifteen years, when he returned to Indiana, and lived on the farm of his cousin, Adam Deem Crume, in Wabash county. It was while residing here that he twice endeavored to enlist for service in the Union army during the Civil War, but was each time rejected on account of poor eyesight. The third time, however, October 24, 1864, at LaFayette, he succeeded in enlisting in Company D, Thirtieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until long after the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge October 25, 1865. He was in the Army of the Cumberland, and among others participated in the engagements at Columbia, Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville, and following the latter battle the command of which Mr. Crume was a member pursued the Confederate Hood as far as Huntsville, Alabama, where they went into winter quarters. At the time of the assassination of President Lincoln they were at Strawberry Plains, and succeeding this were sent to New Orleans and later to Texas, Mr. Crume receiving his discharge at the Louisiana city. Mr. Crume was at all times a brave, faithful and gallant soldier, cheerfully performing the duties that fell to his lot, and winning the admiration of his comrades and the respect of his officers. On the completion of his military service, he started on a trip overland to the West, and for two and one-half years was engaged in mining at Virginia City, Montana, and also spent six months at Salt Lake City, Utah. This venture, however, did not prove successful, and he returned to Indiana and for three years traveled for a dental supply house during the summers, while the winters were spent in teaching school, his home during this time being at Peru. In this manner he accumulated enough to enable him to embark in business, and in 1872, in partnership with William Walton, under the firm style of Walton & Crume, he opened a book and wallpaper business in this city. In February, 1879, he purchased Mr. Walton's interest in the business, which he conducted alone until January, 1905, when the business was sold to West & Stevens. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Crume, with others, organized the Peru Canning Company of which he was secretary and treasurer for about two years, and then sold out and established himself in a general insurance business,



in which he has continued to the present time. As secretary of the Peru Commercial Club, he is assisting in forwarding the city's business interests, and he has always been known as a public-spirited citizen who has had the welfare of his community at heart. For years a Republican, he was clerk of the city from 1873 until 1880, and also served as a city councilman for two years, but in 1912 cast his fortunes with the newly-organized Progressive party. During his long residence in Peru, he has formed a wide acquaintance, in which he numbers a great many warm friends, drawn to him by his sincerity, his integrity and his loyalty to his friendships.

On September 25, 1873, Mr. Crume was married to Miss Catherine Adelia Graham, daughter of John A. Graham, one of the well-known pioneers of Miami county, and to this union there were born three children: Alice E., who is deceased; Lenice, now the wife of James McNamara; and Graham M. After the death of his first wife Mr. Crume married her sister, Alice E. Graham. Mr. and Mrs. Crume are faithful members of the Roman Catholic church.

LOUIS F. BETZNER, deceased, was identified with the farming interests of Deer Creek township, Miami county, Indiana, for a number of years. He came here in 1851, from Trenton, New Jersey, and located at Leonda, Miami county, where he followed shoe making until 1861. He then bought the place on which his son, Louis C. Betzner, now lives. A log house stood on the farm at that time, into which he moved his family, and which served them for a home until they built the present farm house. With the assistance of his sons he cleared and improved the land, and here he spent the rest of his life and died. His death occurred September 14, 1903. He was born in Germany and had served six years in the German army. His wife, Catherine (Bender) Betzner, also was a native of Germany. She died June 9, 1911. They reared a large family of children who are now useful and respected members of the respective communities in which they live. Their names in order of birth are as follows: John G., Eli B., Carl E., Frederick H., Emma C. (now Mrs. Levi Bowser), Mary M. (now Mrs. Warren Morrow) and Louis C.

John G. Betzner was born December 20, 1857. He was reared on his father's farm; assisted in the farm work, and attended the district school. In his youth he learned the blacksmith's trade, and for a time was employed as foreman in rolling mills at Marion. Following this he became superintendent in the rolling mills at East Chicago, where he remained until he came to his present location at Hammond, Indiana, where he is engine foreman in the Chemical Works. He married Miss Carrie Spangler.

Eli B. Betzner was born March 18, 1859. His boyhood days were passed on his father's farm until he was sixteen years of age. Then he learned the harness maker's trade in Peru, with Valentine Smith, and for a few years remained there in this line of business. He was then employed by Dr. U. A. Ayer in his harness shop, and continued there as foreman for fourteen years. In 1903 he became a partner in the Betzner Bros.' hardware store in Peru, and has since been identified with this business. He married Miss Tillie Troster, and they have two children, Blanche and Clarence. Mr. Eli B. Betzner is both an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Maccabees.

Carl E. Betzner remained on the farm until he attained his twenty-first year. He was born February 3, 1861. In 1883 he became a clerk in the hardware store of Puterbaugh Bros. at Peru, and with the exception of about one year, when he was stock-keeper of the Peru Elec-

tric Mfg. Co., he continued with them until 1903, when the Betzner Bros. (Eli B. and Carl E.) bought the Puterbaugh Bros.' store and have since conducted it. He married Laura F. Martin and they have one daughter, Hazel. He is a Democrat, as are also all the brothers, and he is a member of Peru Lodge, No. 539, I. O. O. F.; the Knights of Maccabees, and the United Commercial Travelers.

Frederick H. Betzner spent his boyhood and reached manhood on his father's farm. When he left the farm he became a carpenter for the American Plate Glass Company at Kokomo, Indiana. Later he engaged in the restaurant business at Middletown, Indiana, where he remained until 1913. He is unmarried.

Louis C. Betzner, the youngest son, was born November 19, 1871, on the farm where he has since lived, having succeeded his father in the operation of the home farm. In addition to attending the schools near his home, he was for a time a student at Bunker Hill and later in St. Louis. He married, April 22, 1896, Miss Matilda Hartman, daughter of John and Mary (Meek) Hartman. Her grandfather, Dr. Meek, was instrumental in getting a post office established at Bunker Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Betzner have two children: Wayne, born July 23, 1897, and Catherine, November 17, 1900. Fraternally, Mr. Betzner is identified with both the Knights of Pythias and the Masons, at Bunker Hill. He has passed all the chairs in the K. of P. lodge, No. 299, and is senior warden of the Masonic lodge No. 683. He maintains relations with the Methodist Episcopal Church, now being chairman of the Board of Trustees and having served as superintendent of the Sunday school.

**JOHN W. PARKHURST.** The experiences gained in long years of connection with enterprises of no extensive nature have enabled John W. Parkhurst to ably discharge the duties of secretary and factory manager of one of Peru's principal industries, the Indiana Manufacturing Company. Mr. Parkhurst is entitled to the honorable title of self-made man, having risen by his own efforts from a humble clerkship to a position of prestige in manufacturing circles. He has been a resident of this city since 1906, coming here from Indianapolis, and since his advent has not only been identified with large business ventures, but has also made a place for himself in the social and political life of the city.

John W. Parkhurst was born at Franklin, Indiana, October 15, 1861, a son of John M. Parkhurst, an agriculturist, upon whose farm he spent his boyhood and youth, it being his father's intention that he should follow in his foot-steps and become a tiller of the soil. The young man, however, had his own ideas as to what he should make his life work, and at the age of twenty-five years left the parental roof. He had received a good common school education, and secured a position as bookkeeper in a wholesale stove establishment in Indianapolis, and two years later, when some of the employes of the concern bought out the business, he became secretary of the new concern, which was known as the Wells Manufacturing Company. His connection with this enterprise continued until 1891, in which year, with his brother, James H. Parkhurst, he organized the Famous Stove Company, which the brothers conducted four years. This was eventually sold out to their former associates, and succeeding this the brothers purchased the Indianapolis Bolt and Machine Works, changed the name to the Parkhurst Manufacturing Company, and turned their attention to the manufacture of passenger and freight elevators to such good effect that in 1906 they were compelled to seek a field where they would have larger accommodations for their rapidly growing



business and chose Peru as the site of their future operations. At the time that this business was sold to the Otis Elevator Company, in 1909, the brothers were employing one hundred mechanics and had built up a trade that extended far beyond the limits of the State. On disposing of his interests in the Parkhurst Manufacturing Company, Mr. Parkhurst accepted a position as secretary and factory manager for the Indiana Manufacturing Company, a capacity in which he is acting at the present time. He has a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of his business, having learned every detail thereof during his rise from the lowest position on the ladder. A man of excellent judgment, foresight and shrewdness, he is at all times capable of adapting himself to conditions as they arise, and has the full confidence of those with whom he is associated. At the present time he is president of the Home Savings and Loan Association, and his various other large connections in the business world of Peru make him a dominant figure in commercial and industrial life. As president of the Commercial Club, a position he has held two years, he has joined with others in promoting Peru's interests, and movements for the city's welfare find in him a staunch supporter. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Moose and various other social organizations and, with his family, is a member of the Christian Church. He believes that each man should choose the political candidate he deems best fitted for the office, irrespective of party lines, although he usually supports Republican principles.

On October 18, 1881, Mr. Parkhurst was united in marriage with Miss Ella I. Blizard, and they have been the parents of two children: Maude and Frank.

**WALTER W. STOWMAN.** One of the most estimable citizens of Miami county and one who has been identified with Jefferson township since he was born, is Walter W. Stowman, the son of a pioneer resident of the county who migrated hither from New Jersey as early as in 1847. Mr. Stowman has continued with the worthy activities established and carried on for so many years by his parent, and has in every way proven himself a worthy successor of that gentleman. He was born on the farm on which he now resides in Jefferson township, on April 14, 1851, and here has passed his life thus far, with but slight exception.

Charles W. Stowman, the father of him whose name introduces this review, was of Pennsylvania birth, as has already been stated, and he came to Indiana in 1847, locating with his family in Jefferson township. He did not at first identify himself to any extent with the farming industry, but bought a few acres where he established a home, and he also made the purchase of an old burl flouring mill on the Eel river. This mill he continued to operate for many years, and some twenty years after he came into its possession, the mill was destroyed, being swept out by an ice freshet. The history of the mill is of some little interest, it being one of the oldest established ones in the county at that time. It had its origin in 1835, when John Ratliff built it, and it was the second mill to be built in the township. In later years it was sold to Isaac Marquis, then to John J. McMurray, and still later to a Mr. Cole, who rebuilt the mill almost entirely. Mr. Stowman was the last man to come into ownership of the mill, and his activities in the milling line were long carried on here. When the freshet swept away the old mill, Mr. Stowman prepared to rebuild, and had his material all ready for the erection of a new and more modern mill, but the owners of the mill in Mexico refused to draw off the water long enough for him to lay his foundations. The case was finally taken into court and the litigation in the matter dragged



*Prof. H. H. H. H.*

STOWMAN HOMESTEAD  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. WALTER W. STOWMAN





on for several years, finally being decided in favor of Mr. Stowman. He decided, however, not to rebuild the mill, after gaining his point, and from then on he devoted himself exclusively to farming activities, in connection with stock dealing. He was a successful farmer and came to be the owner of a comfortable place in Jefferson township, while he was known for a splendid citizen and a man of the most excellent parts. A strong Democrat in his politics, Charles Stowman gave his support to the activities of the party at all times, although he never aspired to office or any of the favors that accompany political activity.

Mr. Stowman married Mary Chambers in Ohio, where he had stopped on his way from New Jersey, and to them were born seven children. Six of the seven are living, and four of them reside in Miami county at the present time. In his younger days, Mr. Stowman had worked in a distillery in his native state, but despite this fact, he never took a drink of intoxicating liquor in his life. He was a man of the stanchest integrity, and when he died in January, 1873, Miami county lost one of her most estimable and worthy citizens. His widow survived him for a number of years, and is now buried at his side in the cemetery at Mexico.

Walter W. Stowman worked on the home farm as a boy, dividing his time between attendance at school in the country and work about the place, as was the custom in those days with the youth of the country districts, and, indeed, as is much the rule today. When he reached his majority he engaged in work in a factory at Peru, and later lived for two years at Frankfort. With these exceptions, Mr. Stowman has always made his home on the old homestead. He is the present owner of a fine place of about one hundred and fifty acres, which he operates along lines of general farming and stock raising, and is counted one of the really successful farming men of the township. The place is known as "Stowman Homestead."

On Thanksgiving day, in 1879, Mr. Stowman took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss A. Kate Snively, the daughter of John M. and Lemitia (Stryker) Snively, then a resident of Peru, where Mrs. Stowman had been reared. To them have been born four children. They are named Vernice, Lemitia, Mabel and Marie. Vernice was educated in the country school and the Mexico high school. She took her business course at the Marion Normal and has been engaged with the State Life Association for nine years. She is a member of the Baptist church. Lemitia is at home. She was educated in the common schools and Mexico high school. Mabel is the wife of Geo. E. Musselman, an agriculturist in the county. They have two little children, twins, Gayland E. and Gaythal E. Marie is in the seventh grade and is taking music. Mrs. Stowman was educated in the common schools and is a graduate of the class of 1876. She had her license to teach.

Mr. Stowman is a Democrat, as was his father before him, and while he is stanch and true in his allegiance to the party, he is still sufficiently alive to the best interests of his community to depart from party prejudices and vote at times for candidates other than those of his political faith. His splendid citizenship is one of his finest qualities, and he ever manifests a wholesome interest in the affairs of the township, county and state. He has no churchly affiliations as a member, but his wife has membership in the Baptist church, and he supports the activities of that body in a praiseworthy manner.

The Stowman family is one that enjoys the unadulterated friendship of a wide circle of the best people of the town and county, and they take a leading share in the social and other activities of their circle.



A. H. KALBFLEISCH, M. D. In the practical work of his profession and in the devotion to the interest of the medical fraternity and the welfare of the community, Dr. Kalbfleisch is one of the conspicuous members of his profession in Miami county where he has resided for upwards of thirty years. His name is associated with the Peru Sanitarium, which, while a private enterprise, has a large usefulness for other members of the profession and has served the needs of this city, and its people in many ways.

Dr. A. H. Kalbfleisch was born in the city of St. Louis, September 1, 1847, being of German parentage. His father, Conrad C. Kalbfleisch was a native of Hesse, Darmstadt, and by occupation was a merchant and tailor. The mother was a native of Wurttemberg and came to this country, her marriage with J. C. Kalbfleisch being celebrated in New York. Thence they moved west to Missouri, joining a Lutheran colony in Perry county near Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Subsequently the family moved to St. Louis and from there to Collinsville, Illinois, where the father remained until his death.

Mr. Kalbfleisch was reared to manhood at St. Louis and in Collinsville, and received his education in the public schools and in the parochial schools of the Lutheran church. When he took up the study of medicine he abandoned the lifework which had been marked out for him previously, which destined him for the profession of minister in the Lutheran church. His medical studies began in 1867 with Dr. Wm. Brandemuehl of Collinsville. In 1869 he entered the Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, and was graduated from that well known institution February 23, 1871. His practice was begun in his old home town of Collinsville, but soon after he moved to Pinckneyville, Illinois, where he established his office and during his residence there attained a practice over a wide range of country.

Following a year's post-graduate work in Chicago, Dr. Kalbfleisch located at Peru, and this has been his permanent residence ever since. Thirty years of close attention to the profession have presented countless opportunities for practical benevolence and helpful service for humanity, and to as great a degree as any other physician in this county Dr. Kalbfleisch has utilized these different sources of helpfulness. During 1889-90 Dr. Kalbfleisch spent a year at Cullman, Alabama, but with that exception has never been away from Peru for any considerable length of time. In 1900 he erected his Sanitarium in this city, which was designed in the first place to accommodate his own large private practice. This is a two story brick building, 78x26 in ground dimensions, and is equipped with the most modern appliances and conveniences for sanitarium and hospital practice. Immediately upon its completion, Dr. Kalbfleisch extended the use of his building to other members of the profession and thus to a large degree it has served the purposes of a general hospital.

From 1891 to 1902 Dr. Kalbfleisch was secretary of the county board of health and has also served as secretary of the city board of health. He has held the office of secretary of the board of health longer than any other officer. He is an active member of the Miami County, the Indiana State and the American Medical Societies. Though he is a graduate of the Hahnemann School of Medicine, he is not dogmatic in his devotion to the principles of homeopathy, and practices any system that offers the best results for the individual patient. Dr. Kalbfleisch is affiliated with the Peru Lodge of Elks, and in politics has always accorded his allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party.

On May 23, 1876, he married Miss Maltida K. Conradt, who is now an invalid. She is a daughter of Godlove Conradt, a prominent

Peru business man whose name needs no description in this vicinity and a sketch of whose career appears also in this work. The Doctor and wife are the parents of four children: Albert H., a resident of California; George C., who is living in Tiffin, Ohio; Emma G., now Mrs. Dr. Arthur C. Baldwin of Peru; and Rose M.

**DAVID CHARTERS.** The late David Charters had a residence in Miami county early enough to give his name a place among the pioneers. Besides his work as a substantial farmer, he is remembered as at one time quite prominent in public affairs.

David Charters was a native of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, born January 24, 1821, and was reared on a farm in his native State, securing a somewhat limited education in the district schools of his day and locality. He accompanied his parents, William and Elizabeth (Comfort) Charters (the former a veteran of the War of 1812), to Miami county in 1846 and here purchased a half section of land in Peru township from the original settler, one Daniels, who then lived at Piqua, Ohio. Not having sufficient resources to finance this amount of land, he subsequently sold all but 140 acres and, removing to a log house in the woods, commenced the work of clearing and cultivating. In 1852 he was married to Miss Louisa Long, and they became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are still living. Mr. Charters not only became one of the successful agriculturists of his township, but was also a force in Republican politics, serving Miami county as county commissioner and as representative in the State Legislature. His death occurred in March, 1882, while his widow survived until April, 1912. They were faithful members of the Methodist Church.

**WILLIAM J. CHARTERS**, whose merit and capability have brought to him successive advancement in the business world, is now senior member of the hardware firm of Charters, Brown & Company, at Peru, Indiana. A native of Miami county, his entire career has been passed within its limits, and his entrance into the business life of Peru dates back to 1884. The firm of which he is now the directing head is one of the leading enterprises of its kind in the city, and its rapid and continuous growth has been due in a large degree to the progressive policies he has brought to its management. Mr. Charters was born in Peru township, Miami county, Indiana, January 31, 1855, and is a son of David and Louisa (Long) Charters, of whom more extended mention is made in the sketch immediately preceding this. He was one of their nine children, of whom seven survive.

William J. Charters was given the advantages of a common school education and was reared on the home farm, it being his father's intention for him to follow the agricultural business. The bent of the young man, however, seemed toward mercantile pursuits, and when he was twenty-nine years of age, he came to Peru and secured employment as a clerk in the store of Shirk & Miller. He continued with this concern for the next eighteen years, at the end of which time he decided that he was ready to enter the business arena on his own account. Accordingly, on January 1, 1902, the firm of Charters, Brown & Company was organized and this concern has continued to do an increasingly successful business to the present time. Mr. Charters is popular both in social and business circles, and is known for his thorough reliability, his enterprise and his progressive methods. Those who come within the closer circle of his friendship can always count upon his loyalty, and true worth can always win his friendship. In political matters he is a Republican, but has not aspired to prefer-



ment in public office. He is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason. For two terms he served as Worshipful Master of Miami Lodge No. 67, A. F. & A. M., and upon the consolidation of Miami Lodge and Peru Lodge No. 482, into Peru and Miami Lodge No. 67, he was elected the first Worshipful Master.

Mr. Charters was married on October 11, 1886, to Miss Ida M. Zimmerman, and they have one son, David B. Mr. and Mrs. Charters are leading members of the First Baptist Church of Peru.

CHARLES M. CHARTERS, another of the seven surviving children of David and Louisa (Long) Charters, was born on the farm home in Miami county, on February 17, 1872, and was there reared. He was educated in the county schools and in 1891 was graduated from the Peru High School. In September, 1891, he entered the Citizens' National Bank as bookkeeper and collector, and there served in different positions until January, 1903, when he became cashier.—a position he now occupies.

Mr. Charters was married on September 5, 1907, to Harriet Porter, and they have two children, Mildred P. and John P. Mr. Charters is a Mason of the Royal Arch degree, and is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church.

SAMUEL M. CHARTERS. In preceding paragraphs have been recorded the important facts about the Charters family during the first generation of its residence in Miami county. Samuel M. Charters, who is more generally known as Mifflin Charters, is one of the children of David and Louisa (Long) Charters, who established the family in the county, and whose lives are sketched above.

Mr. S. M. Charters was born on the old homestead in Peru township, November 28, 1857. The other members of the family turned their attention to merchandising and other lines of endeavor, but he has been more than content with the bounty and prosperity bestowed upon those who follow agriculture as their regular vocation. It is a noteworthy fact that his home has been on the same section of the same township from the time of his birth to the present. As a boy he attended the neighboring district schools, and also went for a time to the Peru schools, and then returned to the homestead to take up its practical duties.

On October 3, 1888, he married Mary Elizabeth Gallahan, daughter of W. Clarke and Martha (Arnett) Gallahan, who were farmers of Cass county. After his marriage Mr. Charters bought his present place of seventy acres, and built a good home and has improved the property to one of the productive and valuable rural estates of Peru township.

Mrs. Charters died June 3, 1900, leaving two children, Marie E. and Charles H. Mr. Charters is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Masonic fraternity of Lodge 67 of Peru.

THE NEWMAN FAMILY. Samuel K. Newman was one of the noted characters of Miami county, Indiana, and was also one of its most noted citizens. He was born on March 19, 1819, and came here the year following the organization of Miami county, and from 1837 until the time of his death he made this district his home. During those years he succeeded in accumulating one of the large fortunes of the county, beginning his career with absolutely nothing of material possession, and closing it in the high position he had long occupied here. In his earlier years of business activity and struggle he overcame seemingly unsurmountable obstacles, but he was never one to look his diffi-



Pugliese  
photo

BIRDSEYE VIEW OF "THE NEWMAN GRANGE"  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. MEDFORD KYLE NEWMAN





culties other than squarely in the face, and it is well known that an obstacle stanchly met is half overcome.

On first coming to Miami county Samuel K. Newman found employment at farm work, at the daily wage of fifty and seventy-five cents. He carefully hoarded his money, and as land was then cheap, it was not long before he came to be the owner of some real estate. He was naturally proficient in the art of trading, and it is related of him that he would start from home with a decrepit horse, and in a short time return with a span of fine horses, a wagon and various other commodities, and money in his pocket. He was a man of marked, but never offensive peculiarities. He paid scanty regard to matters of dress, but when he advanced an opinion hearers would listen intently. In the course of time his fancy for the accumulation of real estate resulted in his becoming the largest landed proprietor in Miami county, besides becoming the owner of large city and other properties. He was not much given to the idea of improving properties that came into his possession, his fancy being rather to acquire it.

The first wife of Samuel K. Newman was Lydia Ann Harman, who was born in January, 1824, and died on December 20, 1877. His second wife was Eliza Jane Busick, born in 1841, and who died in 1905. No children were born of the second marriage, but to the first was born one son, Thomas I. Newman. The father died on December 5, 1902.

Thomas I. Newman, only son of Samuel K. and Lydia Ann (Harmon) Newman, was born October 2, 1845, in Miami county, and in his boyhood received an exceedingly liberal education, judged by the standards of the day, having been a student at Merom College, Sullivan county. His training culminated in being a student in the Indiana State University. During the life of his father, Mr. Newman's principal activity lay in the business of improving the many properties that came to be added to the tax list of the elder Newman. He became as a result of his work along these lines, known for a man of especially advanced ideas, and rather ahead of his time in the matter of progress.

Thomas I. Newman married Kate E. L. Junkin, who was born on May 9, 1848, and who died on December 12, 1899. They became the parents of five children, as follows: Omer U., a lawyer of Indianapolis; Olive, the wife of J. H. Fidler, of Peru, Indiana; Samuel L., living in Miami county; William Turner, a Cass county farmer; and Medford Kyle. Thomas I. Newman died on August 6, 1911.

Medford Kyle Newman, son of Thomas I. and grandson of Samuel K. Newman, was born in Cass county, Indiana, May 28, 1887, and assisted his father in looking after the large estate of the family until after the death of the father. Since that time he has become the owner of nearly five hundred acres, and he operates this in conjunction with stock-raising, a business in which he has experienced a pleasing degree of success.

Politically Mr. Newman is a Republican, but not more active in the party ranks than good citizenship demands. To his marriage with Miss Mildred, daughter of Clement Anderson, solemnized on June 21, 1908, one son has been born,—Clement Irvin, named thus in honor of his paternal and maternal grandfathers. Mrs. Newman is a native of Cass county, Indiana, born July 16, 1889, and she is the second child in a family of three daughters born to Clement L. and Martha (Fox) Anderson. All the children are living, the eldest being Mabel, wife of Melvin E. Smith, a resident of Muncie, Indiana, an electrician. They have a son, Clement. Mrs. Newman is next in order of birth. Naomi is a resident of Peru, Indiana, and is a member of the Peru high school class of 1915.

Mr. Anderson was born in Miami county in 1862 and was engaged in



the lumber industry. He was educated in the common schools and was a graduate of the Valparaiso University. He was a Democrat and he and wife were members of the Progressive Church Society. He died in 1903 and is interred in the Oak Grove Cemetery of Peru, Indiana. His wife is a native of Miami county and is a resident of Peru, Indiana. Mrs. Newman received excellent educational advantages and is ably fitted to preside over her beautiful modern country seat, which is known as "The Newman Grange," located six miles northwest of Peru, Indiana. It is a large modern brick residence, commanding an admirable view of the surrounding country and surrounded by the finest and most modern barns and outbuildings. The home is lighted by electricity, has a hot water plant and is finished in oak and poplar. Its portals are ever open to the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Newman. Mrs. Newman is a member of the Progressive church, and with her husband, is prominent and popular in local circles.

HAL C. PHELPS. A member of an old Empire State family, whose members have distinguished themselves in military and civil life, in the business arena, in agriculture and in the professions, Hal C. Phelps, prosecuting attorney of Miami county, Indiana, has maintained the reputation of the family name, and for some years has been a prominent legislator of Peru. Mr. Phelps was born on his father's farm in Deer Creek township, Miami county, Indiana, the youngest of the five children of Charles R. and Ellen J. (Fishtorn) Phelps.

Barrett Phelps, the great-grandfather of Hal C. Phelps, was a resident of Hebron, Connecticut, and served in the Revolutionary War in Capt. Skinner's company. He married Ruth, daughter of Elizur and Ruth Loveland, whose father also served the Colonies during their struggle with Great Britain for independence. Barrett and Ruth Phelps were the parents of ten children, the ninth being Bissell Phelps, the grandfather of Hal C. Phelps, who was born March 27, 1805, in Lewis county, New York. He married a Miss Loucks, whose Christian name was Margaret, on October 28, 1832, and in 1853 moved with his family to Miami county, Indiana, and settled on a farm in Clay township, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, in cheese manufacturing and in dairying during the remainder of his life. He died April 4, 1898, and his wife April 30, 1884, and they were the parents of five children. Charles R. Phelps was the youngest of the children of Bissell Phelps, and was born in Lewis county, New York, December 1, 1840, and died in Miami county, Indiana, July 1, 1879. He was reared on a farm, and in his youth became a school teacher, a vocation which he followed until his marriage to Ellen J. Fishtorn, April 8, 1868. Shortly thereafter he became engaged in farming, in connection with which he operated a dairy and cheese factory in Deer Creek township, and became one of the successful men of his locality, although he died when still in the prime of life.

Hal C. Phelps was reared in Miami county, and was primarily educated in the district schools, following which he attended about eighteen months at Marion Normal College, several terms at the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana, six months at Hull's School, Mantua, Ohio, and a course at Voorhies Business College, at Indianapolis, Indiana. He subsequently took an academic and law course in Valparaiso University, and was graduated from the law department thereof in 1907. Since that time Mr. Phelps has been practicing law at Peru. On May 2, 1912, he was appointed prosecuting attorney of the county by Governor Marshall, and to this office he was elected in the fall of the year. His services to his community have been characterized by

the utmost fidelity to duty and as prosecuting attorney he is giving a conscientious and public-spirited administration. As a lawyer he has made a creditable place for himself in his profession and his ability is attested by the liberal clientage now accorded him.

Mr. Phelps is a member in the ninth generation of the Phelps family, the early progenitors of which came from England on the good ship "Mary and John," landing on American soil July 20, 1630. The Phelps family of Miami county have in their possession the genealogy and chronology of the Phelps family dating back to William the Conqueror who came to England from Normandy, France, about 1100. Hal C. Phelps has a full inventory of the chattels of Noah Phelps dated December 6, 1806 and it enumerates every article in detail in the household and farm. He has also a certified copy of the will and papers of executorship.

VITES E. KAGY. An active member of the Peru bar since 1901. Vites E. Kagy was born in Putnam county, Ohio, July 4, 1875, one of two children both of whom are still living born to Leander and Irene (Van Dyke) Kagy the parents were respectively of Swiss and Holland ancestry. Leander Kagy was a farmer by occupation and about 1879 moved to the vicinity of Tiffin in Seneca county, Ohio, where his home is still located and where he is engaged in farming pursuits.

Vites E. Kagy spent his youth on the home farm in Seneca county, and received his primary education in the public schools. When seventeen years of age he attained a certificate, and began to teach, an occupation which he continued during the winters for seven years, spending the alternate summers in study at college and in reading law. He attended the Ohio Northern University at Ada, and was graduated from the law department of that institution September 1901. In October of the same year he opened his office for practice at Peru.

Mr. Kagy has been prominent in politics and public affairs and in January, 1906, became county prosecutor, having been elected to this office in the preceding fall on the Democratic ticket. Two years later he was elected to the same office and gave four years of efficient service in that capacity. Mr. Kagy fraternally is affiliated with the Order of Elks.

On July 24, 1901 he married Miss Eda H. Hiestand, of Findlay, Ohio. They are the parents of two daughters, Helen E. and Bernice I.

JARED SPOONER, M. D. High on the roster of the men whose activities in the field of medicine and surgery have served to materially advance the importance of Miami county in these sciences stands the name of Dr. Jared Spooner, for more than thirty years the possessor of a large and representative practice at Peru. A man of deep learning, with a thorough understanding of the responsibilities and duties that devolved upon him in his chosen calling, he gained a reputation among his professional brethren and the confidence of those to whom he administered. Dr. Spooner was born in Noble county, Indiana, December 6, 1846, and was a son of John Spooner. During the early years of his life John Spooner was a sailor on the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes, and later became a farmer. He married Martha Rawson, in Ohio, and moved to Noble county, Indiana, at an early day, where John Spooner passed the greater part of his life in farming.

Reared in the county of his birth, as a boy Jared Spooner attended the country schools. When a lad of eighteen years, October 16, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and until his honorable discharge, in October, 1865, was engaged for the greater part of the time in detached duty in



Georgia and elsewhere. Subsequently, on his return to Noble county, he taught school for several years in Indiana and Michigan. It was during this time he sought to better his education by attending high school at Auburn, Indiana, and in the winters of 1869-70 and 1870-71 he attended the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, having previously read medicine for a time, and was graduated in March, 1871. He at once began practicing at Auburn and was thus and there employed until 1880, when he came to Peru, this being his home ever afterwards with the exception of one and one-half years when he was division surgeon at Ashley, Indiana, for the Wabash Railroad Company. At Peru he built up a large practice and was considered by the profession and laymen as an able practitioner and surgeon. He was a Republican in politics, a member of the Odd Fellows, and served at different times as president of the Miami County Medical Society. He also belonged to the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. The winter of 1889-90 he entered the senior class of the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, from which he was granted the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the spring of the latter year. He also attended clinics at various places at different times on special surgical work that particularly interested him. While his practice was general, he devoted much of his attention to surgery, in which he enjoyed a wide reputation. On April 4, 1871, Dr. Spooner was married to Mary E. Ford, and to this union there were born three children: Blanche, who died in infancy; Quig F., a resident of Oklahoma; and John P. Dr. Spooner died September 25, 1910; his widow survives him and resides at Peru.

DR. JOHN P. SPOONER, the youngest of the children of Dr. Jared Spooner, was born at Auburn, Indiana, April 26, 1876. He was about four years of age when brought by his parents to Peru, and here was educated, primarily in the public school. After his graduation from the high school, in 1893, he taught school for several years, and during this time also attended the State University at Bloomington. He was graduated therefrom in 1900, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and following this spent two years more in school teaching. After some preliminary study, in 1902 he entered Rush Medical College, at Chicago, where he was graduated in 1905, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Spooner was then for two years an interne in the Cook County Hospital, in the Illinois metropolis, and in 1907 came to Peru, where he has since been engaged in active practice. He attended clinics in Vienna in 1909. The Doctor is a member of the Masons and the Odd Fellows, and belongs to the various medical organizations.

On October 11, 1911, Dr. Spooner was united in marriage with Miss Helen Stiles, of Peru.

LEVI AND J. H. MILLER. It will not be gainsaid by those who knew him in whatever degree, that Levi Miller, who settled on the northwest quarter of section four in Jefferson township, in the year 1842, was a man considerably above the average pioneer in point of intellect and stamina. His after life gave every evidence of that fact, and the brief data here presented will support the statement amply. He was a native of Virginia, born in Augusta county on February 23, 1817, and was a son of Abraham and Nancy (Moses) Miller.

The year 1833 saw the removal of the Miller family from its native soil to that of Preble county, Ohio, where Abraham Miller died in later years. In 1842 Mrs. Miller, then widowed, came with her children to Miami county, Indiana. Levi Miller had married, two years previous



*Payson*  
PHOTO

"THE MILLER STOCK FARM"

RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. MILLER





to this, in November, 1840, Ursula, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Eikenbury) Allbaugh, and they had one son when they came to Indiana to live. Levi Miller had in his possession several hundred dollars when he came to Miami county, and with this sum he made an initial payment upon a tract of land, going into debt, with his characteristic confidence in himself and the future, for the bulk of the cost of the place. He and his young wife moved into a log cabin on the new place, and there they began to delve. They applied themselves diligently to the work of cleaning up the place, passing through the formative period with the utmost courage and experiencing all the hardships of pioneer life in that early day. The land, when Mr. Miller acquired it, was covered with a dense growth of timber which then had absolutely no market value, and was regarded as a detriment rather than an advantage, and which today would have netted him a tidy fortune on the stump. Thus was giant timber felled to the earth, and such of it as was not available for fences and primitive buildings, was piled in enormous heaps and ruthlessly burnt. But the development of the country entailed sacrifices of that order, and progress justifies such seeming waste and profligacy.

When Mr. Miller recognized the fact that he must make another payment on his land, he was confronted with the realization that he had no money. He did, however, possess an extra mare and colt, and there being no demand for such collateral in his vicinity, he rode the mare to Preble county, Ohio, the colt following in their wake, and there he sold the pair for \$55. With this sum in his pocket he walked the entire distance back to his forest home, and in this manner was able to liquidate a part of his indebtedness. Acts of this nature show forth in no uncertain manner something of the courage and pluck that characterized the man, and his overpowering determination to bring success out of the untoward conditions that then prevailed. As time passed he prospered, it is true, but only by reason of his tireless industry, self-sacrifice, and his unquenchable determination. At one time he was the owner of about a thousand acres of the choicest land in Miami county, but with advancing years he divided his holdings with his children, retaining a minor portion as his own. In connection with his regular farming activities, Mr. Miller was extensively engaged in stock raising, a business in which he gained prominence and success. He also interested himself financially in some of the leading enterprises of the county, becoming a stockholder in the Citizens' Bank of Peru and gaining a reputation as a shrewd and capable financier, and a practical, hard-headed man of business, withal a liberal and enthusiastic supporter of laudable public enterprises.

In all his many business transactions Mr. Miller was known to be eminently fair and strictly honest. Because of his unblemished character he commanded universal respect, and few men in the county were ever more highly esteemed than was Mr. Miller all his days. He began the struggle of life as a poor boy. It is to his everlasting credit that he fought a good fight, succeeded well in overcoming seemingly unsurmountable obstacles, and in the evening of his life was able to look with contentment and satisfaction on a career well and honorably spent.

For many years Mr. Miller was of a deeply religious turn of mind, and he died secure in the faith of the German Baptist church, of which he had long been a member. He donated the land on which was erected the Old Folks and Orphan Children's Home at Mexico, and the two main buildings there were reared by him.

Mrs. Miller, the faithful wife of her husband, died in October, 1876. She was delicate in stature and seemed scarcely fitted for the rugged life of the pioneer, but she ably seconded every effort of her husband



in his life work, bearing her share of the burdens in the most cheerful and uncomplaining manner. She died in the serene Christian faith that had characterized the passing of her husband.

To Mr. and Mrs. Miller were born ten children, named as follows: Abraham, Elizabeth, Nancy, Sarah, Mary A., Rebecca, John H., William I., Eli and Joseph E. Of these Elizabeth married J. E. Marsh of Miami county and Rebecca is the wife of Joseph Elliott of Rocky Ford, Colorado; John H. and Eli are the only sons of the ten now living.

John H. Miller has become widely known in Miami county and surrounding districts as an extensive breeder of Polled Durham cattle. He was born on the old farm adjoining where he now lives. His education, from the standpoint of his actual schooling, was limited, but to see his well stocked library and to converse with him on any topic that may arise would readily disabuse the mind of his hearer of any idea that he was scantily educated. His life work has been the breeding of fancy registered stock of the variety named above, and he is an acknowledged authority in these parts on that and kindred subjects. Mr. Miller's farm consists of four hundred and thirty acres, and is one of the best kept and most thriving in the county.

On March 26, 1874, Mr. Miller was married to Miss Rebecca A., daughter of William Stroud, one of the early settlers of Cass county. Mrs. Miller died on January 11, 1879, leaving one daughter, Bertha E., the wife of Frank E. Gregory, a resident of Los Angeles, Cal., and a silk merchant. On November 28, 1881, Mr. Miller married Miss Emma Constant, a daughter of Isaac and Tabitha (Stingley) Constant, and to this second marriage three sons were born, named as follows: Walter L., Herman C. and Grover T. Walter L. is engaged in business in Detroit, Michigan; received his education at De Pauw University. Herman C. is manager of his father's cattle business. Grover T. is a resident of San Antonio, Texas. The wife and mother passed away on April 11, 1892, and Mr. Miller, on February 7, 1900, contracted his third marriage, when Miss Bettie M. Brown became his wife. Mrs. Miller is a native of Brown county, Ohio, born February 25, 1859, and the fourth in a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters, born to John T. and Mary E. (Pask) Brown, and all of the children as well as parents are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were born in Lincolnshire, England, reared and educated there, also married there and emigrated to America in 1853 in a sailing vessel named "The Emisfield." Mr. Brown's vocation in life has been that of a mechanic and he and his wife are residents of Peru, Indiana, and members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Miller was educated in the common schools and is a lady of business qualifications. She is a member of the Baptist church.

Mr. Miller is a stanch Democrat, up and doing in the party ranks, but never a candidate for office. He is one whose citizenship is of a high order, reflecting credit upon himself and his honored father, and his friends in Miami county are legion. The beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. Miller is known as "The Miller Stock Farm."

**MOSES FALK.** For thirty years Moses Falk conducted a thriving business in Peru, and in that time gained a wide prominence in this section of the state. He was a man of the highest integrity, and his business career was one of the most honorable and unspotted that might be pointed out in the history of the county. Of German birth and ancestry, he brought with him from his native soil many of the worthy traits that have made his country the world power it is today and long has been, and not the least of these was his sterling honesty and whole-souled integrity. When he died in 1878, the business he had estab-

lished and so worthily conducted for three decades passed into the hands of his son, Julius, concerning whom separate mention is made on other pages of this biographical work.

Moses Falk was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on February 8, 1816, and in his boyhood was left an orphan. It was perhaps this unguided state that induced him to leave his native land so young, for he was yet in his teens when he came to America. He had in his home community been apprenticed to the trade of a carpenter, and had a thorough knowledge of the work, so that he was not without resources of a sort when he came to these shores. He first went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he entered upon what he had resolved to make his life career,—the merchandise business, and he began the work of establishing himself in the business by setting out as a pedlar. He traveled on foot with his goods and wares over the states of Ohio and Indiana, and thus gained a wide acquaintance. In 1837 he located near Peoria, in Miami county, and there he established what came to be familiarly known as the "Dutch Grocery." He met success in the enterprise, it is needless to say, and so well did he progress that he was able to extend his operations into other lines. He became the owner and proprietor of a goodly farm nearby, which yielded him a nice income, and in 1850 he moved to Peru and established himself in business there. For many years he occupied one of the most prominent places in the mercantile life of the county, as one of the firm of Falk & Sterne. The Sterne brothers, men he had known in Germany, at his instigation came to America and joined him in business in Peru, and these men came to be known among the best citizenship of the town. In 1859 he dissolved his partnership with them, by mutual consent, and he continued along thereafter until he retired in 1878, his son Julius succeeding him.

Twice did Moses Falk enter into a matrimonial alliance. His first wife was Helen Redelsheimer, whom he married in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She died in 1858, leaving seven children. The second wife of Mr. Falk was Jennie Kuppenheimer who survived her husband by many years. Three children were born to the second marriage.

**JULIUS FALK.** When Moses Falk, after thirty years of commercial activity in Peru, retired from active business associations and placed his affairs in the hands of his son, Julius Falk, of this review, there was continued by the latter gentleman a business that is now in the sixty-seventh year of its life,—a record far in excess of that of any other commercial establishment that might be mentioned, either in Peru or in the county. For such long-continued and successful business activity there must be good and sufficient reasons, and it is apparent to all that the splendid integrity and square-dealing that characterized the operations of the founder of the business, Moses Falk, have not been strangers to his son and successor. No other foundation would permit of such continued strength and prosperity in any given community.

Julius Falk is the son of Moses and Helen (Redelsheimer) Falk, both German-born people, and concerning them more specific mention is not essential at this point, in view of the fact that a detailed sketch is devoted to the memory of Moses Falk on other pages of this work. Julius, who is the sole representative of his father's family to be found resident in Peru today, was born here on February 25, 1855. Up to the age of fourteen years he attended the public schools of the city, and was later for two years a student in Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. Upon the conclusion of his schooling, Mr. Falk entered his father's place of business, and in 1878, some few years after he had first become identified with his father's interests, the senior gentleman retired and placed the



business in the hands of his son, who had proven himself amply capable of conducting its affairs successfully and profitably, and who has since demonstrated his splendid business capacity in no uncertain terms.

The present location of the establishment at the corner of Main and Broadway has been maintained since 1887, and the stock of the store comprises full lines of clothing, men's furnishings and boots and shoes, the store being one of the most complete and comprehensive in its lines and the most fitly appointed in its accessories to be found in this part of the state. It is undeniable that Mr. Falk inherited many of his excellent business traits from his father, and to the methods of that worthy man of business he has added methods and plans of his own evolving that might be adopted with profit by more pretentious concerns than his. Keen business discernment and an unusual far-sightedness have taken important places in his career, and his judgment in matters pertaining to merchandising is admitted to be of the highest order.

Mr. Falk is a man of family, having married Miss Jennie Wile, of Owensboro, Kentucky, and to them were born three daughters, Francis, Corinne and Aimee. Mr. Falk and his family have always enjoyed the good will and whole-souled friendship of the best people of the city, and have maintained a prominent place in the leading social activities of the place for many years. The head of the family is known to be one of the most valuable citizens the town claims, and one who has never shirked his civic responsibilities, but has played well his part as a citizen and a member of society, and the just rewards of such a career are undeniably his.

JOHN S. MCCARTHY has been engaged in the retail boot and shoe business in Peru since August, 1902, and here he has gained a considerable prominence and reputation as a successful man of business. He was born in this city August 2, 1872, and is one of the nine surviving children of the eleven that were born into the home circle of John and Bridget (Daly) McCarthy, both of whom were natives of County Cork, Ireland. John McCarthy was reared to farm life in his native land, and when in young manhood he emigrated to the United States, with the idea of bettering his circumstances. He landed at New Orleans and from there went by boat down the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, and thence to Mansfield, where he found employment in railroad work. From Mansfield Mr. McCarthy moved on to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he continued with his railroad work, and when the Wabash railroad was projected through Peru he came here as an employe of the road. It was after his arrival in Peru that he married, and he continued his connection with work on the railroad until the later years of his life, when he lived in retirement. He died on January 23, 1907. He was a quiet, even-tempered man, always a hardworking person, and one who found his greatest happiness in his home life. He was a devout Catholic, true to the faith of his people, and he reared his family in that religion. His wife died September 3, 1898. She came to America as a girl, in company with her parents, who were among the early settlers of Miami county.

John S. McCarthy has always made his home in Peru. He received his early education in the parochial schools and when fourteen started out for himself as a clerk in the employ of the John S. Hale Company. He continued thus until July 1, 1902, since which time he has been in the shoe business for himself.

Mr. McCarthy is a Democrat, but in no sense a politician. He has taken an active part in the civic activities of the city and as a citizen

of the best order, has taken his place among the leading men of the town.

On May 7, 1900, Mr. McCarthy was united in marriage with Miss Gertrude Murphy, of Logansport, Indiana, and to them three children have been born, two of whom died in infancy. The one living child is John, born September 12, 1911.

**SHIRK FAMILY.** The city of Peru has a reputation for being the home of probably as much wealth as any of the smaller cities of Indiana, and the factors in producing this wealth have with almost no exceptions been residents throughout their active careers in this city. Among the families which have contributed to this reputation the Shirk family has probably the most notable record in financial circles, and through three generations it has been identified with this city and its members have been prominent both in business and citizenship. An entire city square in the residence district comprises the park-like homestead of the Shirk family in Peru, and the beauty of this home place is consistent with the achievements of the family in the business world.

The founder of the family name and fortunes in this county was Elbert Hamilton Shirk. He was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1818, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Stout) Shirk. Samuel Shirk came to Indiana from Georgia and his wife from Kentucky. Elbert H. Shirk spent his boyhood on a farm, having limited advantages in the district schools during the winter months, but after reaching his majority was a student for two years at Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. He then for two years was an instructor in the Rush County Seminary, but from that vocation came to the field for which he was most fitted, that of commerce. In 1844 he located in Peru, where he formed a partnership with John Harlan, who had for some years been a merchant of this town. From that time until his death in 1886, his career was one of unbroken prosperity. At the end of a year, having obtained a thorough business experience he withdrew from the partnership with Mr. Harlan and went into business on his own account. Elbert H. Shirk had the judgment, the foresight, and the executive ability which are the characteristics of the great merchant princes of this country. He was a student of methods and men and of every circumstance which would affect his enterprise. He built up a trade which extended throughout Indiana, and embarked in numerous enterprises which always rewarded his judgment with good profit. He dealt in depreciated land warrants which had been issued to the veterans of the Mexican war and invested them in lands in the then western states of Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. Many of the settlers who went from this section of Indiana to those trans-Mississippi states were equipped with warrants for land sold them by Mr. Shirk. This was his first extensive venture in real estate and he thereafter followed up that line of business very extensively and systematically. It was through his real estate operations that his large fortune was accumulated, and some of the largest of his investments were in the city of Chicago during the period of most rapid development in that city.

Elbert H. Shirk was the founder of the First National Bank of Peru, the oldest and recognized as the best financial institution of Miami county. He had opened a private bank for deposits in 1857, and through his own resources and his high standing in the community, kept this institution at a high standard through the troublesome financial times that followed. Then in 1864, the year following the



of the First National Bank of Peru, which was organized in 1864. Through a large portion of the business community, however this institution was long known by the more familiar title of "Shirk's Bank." He held the office of president from the organization until his death, and it was his business capacity as well as his individual resources which contributed to the solid character of the First National Bank.

Regardless of panics and hard times, the First National never closed its doors, maintained an unshaken credit, and acquired and paid its semi-annual dividend with unfailing regularity. In banking, merchandising and real estate, Elbert H. Shirk was undoubtedly one of the strongest men of his time in Indiana. Had he chosen as a field for his enterprise, one of the great cities of the country, his name would undoubtedly have been associated with that of the greatest merchant princes in American business annals. While he was pre-eminently successful as a creator of business resources, he was none-the-less noted for the development of that other class of resources which are nonetheless valuable to character and to the welfare of society. He was for many years one of the most active members of the Baptist church in Peru, contributing half the cost of the church edifice erected during his life time, and was always a quiet worker in benevolence and philanthropy in this city. Politically he was first a Whig and then a Republican, but never mingled actively in partisan affairs. Elbert H. Shirk, is remembered as a man of slight and apparently frail physique, but possessing a nervous energy and will-power which constantly cooperated with his remarkable business judgment and from this combination resulted his great success and influence in affairs. He was devoted to family and friends, and his home was a center of the cultured social life of this community. In June, 1845, he married Mary Wright, who was of English descent, and a native of Franklin county, Indiana. Mrs. Shirk was a woman of rare strength of character and during her long and happy associations with her husband she exerted many of the influences which gave him power and success in the world of affairs. Elbert H. Shirk died on April 8, 1886, and his wife survived him for four years, passing away in August, 1894. They left a family of two sons and one daughter.

Milton Shirk, the oldest in his father's family, and who for many years continued the large business and financial activities founded by his father, was born in the city of Peru, November 21, 1849. He attended the public schools of his home town, but acquired his best training under the supervision of his father, and in connection with his actual experience in business. At the age of eighteen in 1867, he entered the First National Bank, soon after advanced to cashier, and on the death of his father was elected by the directors to the office of president, which he held for many years. He continued the same conservative policies of financial management by which his father had created a bank second to none in strength and resources in Northern Indiana, and he also applied his able management to increasing the vast resources established by his father and which were left largely to his management. Up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1903, Milton Shirk was foremost in the business life and civic affairs of Peru. He was a Baptist and active in the work of the church.

On June 6, 1878, the late Milton Shirk married Miss Ellen Walker, a daughter of Joseph H. Walker of Worcester, Massachusetts. They were the parents of two children, Elbert Walker Shirk and Joseph Henry Shirk.

ELBERT WALTER SHIRK, one time president and now sole owner of the United States Cement Company at Bedford, Indiana, and president of the Indiana Manufacturing Company, of Peru, is one of the leading men in business circles of the county. Mr. Shirk was born in Peru, and has passed the greater portion of his life thus far in the town. He is the son of Milton and Ellen (Walker) Shirk, and was born on November 19, 1879, and here reared. In 1893 Mr. Shirk entered Worcester (Mass.) Academy, from which he was graduated in 1898, in which year he entered Harvard. His career in that famous institution of learning was cut short near the close of his third year of attendance, owing to the sudden illness of his father which necessitated his return to the home circle, and the subsequent death of that parent prevented his return.

Soon thereafter Mr. Shirk entered the employ of the Indiana Manufacturing Company as a laborer, and continued thus for a year and a half, while he went through a thorough training in the details of the business. He then left the factory to go into the business of looking after the estate which his father left, which, with his own private interests, have been sufficient to occupy his time to the uttermost. His private concerns at that time were chiefly confined to southern plantation and timber lands, and he later became interested in the cement business at Bedford, Indiana, becoming president of the United States Cement Company and later taking over the entire property in his name. In 1903 Mr. Shirk became president of the Indiana Manufacturing Company, of Peru, succeeding his father in that office, and in 1911, upon the death of A. N. Dukes, took over the active control of the affairs of the concern. When J. H. Shirk became president of the Peru Trust Company Mr. Shirk became vice-president of the concern.

Mr. Shirk is popular in business and social circles throughout the community, and his fraternal relations are far reaching in their scope. He is a member of the Masonic order, affiliating with the Knights Templar at Bedford and the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Indianapolis, the Peru Commercial Club, the University Club of Chicago and the Columbia Club of Indianapolis.

On March 7, 1905, Mr. Shirk was married to Miss Mary Kimberly, of Neenah, Wisconsin.

JOSEPH H. SHIRK, son of the late Milton Shirk, and grandson of Elbert H. Shirk, was born in the city of Peru, January 6, 1881. He spent his early boyhood in Peru, attended the local public schools and then studied for four years at Worcester Academy at Worcester, Massachusetts. From that preparatory school he entered Harvard University in 1898, and in 1902 was graduated A. B.

Twenty-one years of age at the time he left college, he immediately returned to Peru and entered upon a business career in the large field which the activities of his grandfather and father had prepared for him. He became teller in the First National Bank, and when, a year later, his father died, he became assistant cashier and at the same time was made president of the Peru Mercantile Company and vice-president of the Indiana Manufacturing Company. Mr. Shirk for ten years has been one of the most vigorous factors in commercial and financial affairs of this city. In January, 1911, he became president of the Peru Trust Company, of which he had been a director since its organization in 1904.

Mr. Shirk was married November 16, 1909, to Miss Helen Royce of Lafayette, Indiana. They have one daughter, Royse, who was born February 25, 1911. Mr. Shirk is a Republican in politics, and with his family is a member of the Baptist church.



CLARENCE N. HALL established himself in business in Peru in 1890, since which time he has been prominently identified with the town and its best interests. He is a man who has taken a leading part in the affairs of his community, and has played well his part as a citizen.

Born in Richland township, Miami county, Indiana, on January 26, 1855, Clarence N. Hall is the son of Nelson C. and his wife Letitia (Griswold) Hall. The father was a native of the state of Massachusetts, who came as a young child from there to New York state and thence to Ohio with his family, who settled in Perrysburg, that state. He came to Miami county in his young manhood and here married his wife, who was the daughter of a family from Vermont state long established in these parts. He died in 1889, and his widow survived him until 1902. Both were of the Baptist faith and were members of the church, and in their community they were held in the highest esteem and regard by all who knew them.

Clarence N. Hall was reared in the village of Chili, in Miami county, and there received his early education. He later entered Franklin college, from which he was graduated in 1877. Following his college career he taught school for some three years, after which he became a clerk in a clothing store at Peru, that work being more suited to his natural inclinations than the pedagogic field of enterprise. Mr. Hall remained in the clothing store until 1890, when he saw an opportunity for personal advancement in a business way that he was not slow to grasp, and he soon was established as the proprietor of a business in his own right. This enterprise has continued up to the present time with all success and he is regarded today as one of the successful business men of the city.

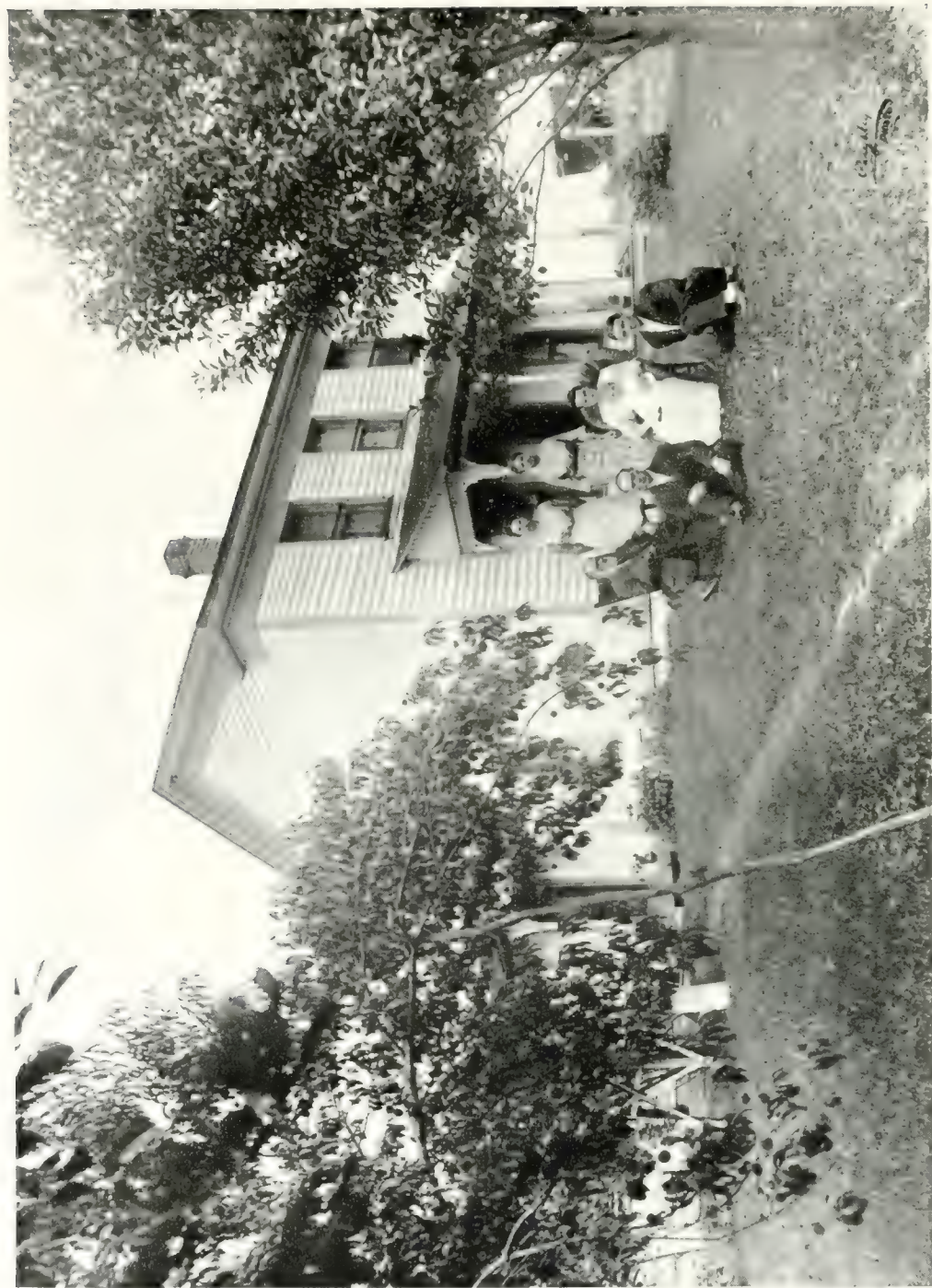
Mr. Hall is a Republican in politics, though not active beyond the demands of good citizenship, and he is fraternally identified with the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Elks, and a number of other fraternities of the insurance bearing order. He was married on April 17, 1879, to Miss Lena McLaughlin, of Franklin, Indiana, and they are the parents of two children, Catherine E., now Mrs. Michael L. Fansler, her husband being a prosecuting attorney of Cass county; and Clarence Lyman Hall, a graduate of Franklin college, and now associated with his father in the business. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are members of the Baptist church, and are active in the various departments of the church work.

DR. B. F. EIKENBERRY has been a practicing physician in Peru, Indiana, since 1896. He is a native of Miami county, this state, born October 27, 1869, in Jefferson township, and the son of John and Nancy (Miller) Eikenberry. These people came from Eaton, Ohio, to Miami county, Indiana, at a time when there were but comparatively few houses in Peru. The father was a farmer by occupation, and settling in the wilderness of Jefferson township, he built a log cabin, and there established his little family and began the work of making a farm out of his wild land. His wife was a sister of Levi Miller, another pioneer of Miami county, who was the founder of the Orphan Asylum at Mexico, in Jefferson township. Mr. Eikenberry died in May, 1912, and he was preceded in death by his wife, who died in May, 1875. They were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom are living today but five.

Dr. B. F. Eikenberry was reared in his native township and there he attended school in the rural districts, and when he had finished with the work of those schools he attended the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1893. He then entered Hahnemann Medical







“FOREST VIEW FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. GEORGE L. WAY

College at Chicago, in the same year, and in March, 1896, was graduated therefrom. He at once located for the practice of his profession, making Peru his place of establishment, and here he has ever since continued in practice, successful and prosperous, and holding the sincere regard and respect of all who know him either in his professional or any other capacity.

Dr. Eikenberry is a member of the Indiana Institute of Homeopathy and the American Institute of Homeopathy. On September 20, 1899, he was married to Miss Effie E. Wilson, of Cass county, Indiana, and they have three children, Florence L., H. Wilson, and Frances Eleanor. Both the doctor and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, and Mrs. Eikenberry, prior to her marriage, was a valued teacher in the public schools of Peru, where she did excellent work in the cause of education.

**GEORGE L. WAY.** Since he was a child of three years, George L. Way has had his home in Miami county, a period of nearly fifty years, during which time he has witnessed all the various improvements, and changes in the progress of the county from its wilderness days to the present. He was here when the first railroad was built, and in his earliest childhood the old canal along the Wabash was still used as a route of transportation and travel. Mr. Way has performed his share of pioneer labor, in clearing the forests from the land, and has devoted all his active career to farming an industry in which he has quietly prospered, and now has one of the best estates in Butler township.

George L. Way is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Mifflin county, April 4, 1852. His father was William P. Way, and his grandfather was Joshua Way. The maiden name of his mother was Martha McKinstry, a daughter of Thomas McKinstry. The family made its removal from Pennsylvania to Miami county, in 1855, and the father's first settlement was in Butler township. He was a hard worker, but a man of no means to speak of when he arrived in this county. He had no money with which to purchase a farm, and therefore rented a house to shelter his family, while he hired his services to others, and after two years, by his thrift and industry was able to buy a small tract of forty acres, on which he put up a small log cabin. The earliest recollections of George L. Way center about that little log cabin home in Butler township. The first home was afterwards traded for another tract of land, comprising sixty acres, and completely covered over with timber. The hardest experience of the early settlers of Miami and other Indiana counties was in the clearing and grubbing of the timber and brush from the soil, and this labor was an absolute preliminary to successful agriculture. In the case of the Way family, as in that of many others, the boundaries of the cultivated fields were at first very limited, and each year were gradually extended into the forest, until in time practically all the farm came under the dominion of the plow. The father was a man of industry, could labor hard from early to late, and to the farm of sixty acres, which he secured, he added more and more until he was the possessor of one hundred and sixty acres and forty-five acres more in Butler township—a total of two hundred and five acres included now in the estate of his son George L. Way. The original house which the family occupied about the time of the war is still standing, although it has been weather-boarded and otherwise improved and remodeled so that its original shape is hardly distinguishable. In that home William P. Way spent his last years, and his death in 1904 removed one of the fine old pioneer citizens.

George L. Way has practically lived all his life on the homestead just



described. After his father's death he continued to manage the farm which came to him by inheritance. During his early years he received only such education as the primitive schools of Butler township could afford. Each term lasted only about three months, and the school house which is fixed in his memory was one of logs, and with all the primitive furnishings which are usually described. It had logs or slab benches, supported by pins driven into the underside, and there were no backs to these benches, so that the children became very weary in the course of a few hours and rested themselves by leaning forward on their knees. He has also done his early writing in the copy books with the old fashioned goosequill pen made by the school master, and studied out of the old-fashioned readers and spelling books, a few of which may still be found in existence in Miami county.

At the present time the Way farm in Butler township comprises two hundred and forty acres. The father and sons have placed all the improvements there, and George did his share of the clearing and assisted in the erection of the barn and other buildings. His father was an active member of the Presbyterian faith, and George L. Way attends and is also a member of the New Hope Presbyterian church. His father was buried in the New Hope cemetery. For two terms William P. Way was trustee of Butler township. He was always a Democrat in politics, and his son follows him in that political inclination.

On December 14, 1878, Mr. George L. Way married Polly Baker. Mrs. Way was born in Miami county, Indiana, April 2, 1860, and was reared and educated in her home county. She was a loveable woman, a loving and affectionate wife and mother and a devout member of the New Hope Presbyterian church. She died February 11, 1912, after having spent thirty-four years of happy married life, dying at the age of fifty-one years, ten months and nine days, and is interred in the New Hope cemetery. The three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Way are as follows: Burton C., who was educated in the public schools, is an agriculturist of Butler township. He wedded Miss Effie M. Johnson and they are members of the church. Viola A., died aged nine months. Mary Stella, is the wife of Ernest Carrothers, a resident and farmer of Butler township, and they are the parents of one little daughter, Thresa Maudean. They are also members of the church. The homestead of Mr. Way is known as "Forest View Farm."

**ALBERT WARD.** A young lawyer who has done much to prove his ability and open the way to a large and successful career in the law, Albert Ward has practiced at Peru since 1904, and has enjoyed much substantial success in his profession and high standing as a citizen.

Born in Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, on September 30, 1879, Albert Ward is the son of James H. and Mary S. (Newton) Ward. His grandfather, John Ward was one of the early settlers of Miami county. James H. Ward, who was born in Franklin county, Indiana, and whose occupation was farming, was living in Minnesota, when the Civil war was declared, and enlisting in the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry went through the entire conflict and rose from the ranks to first lieutenant. After his honorable discharge, he came to Miami county, and spent the rest of his life on a farm. He died on February 1, 1902, and Mrs. Ward followed him February 12, eleven days later. James H. and Mary S. were Methodists and in politics Mr. Ward was a Republican. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living.

Albert Ward, who was sixth in this family, was reared on the old homestead in Perry township. The country schools supplied the foundation of his education, and he made the best use of his somewhat limited

opportunities. In 1900 he began the study of law in the offices of Reasoner & O'Hara at Peru. In September 1902, Mr. Ward entered the Indianapolis College of Law, where he was graduated June 10, 1904. During September of the preceding year, Mr. Ward had formed a partnership with J. T. Cox and E. T. Reasoner under the firm name of Cox, Reasoner & Ward, a partnership which continued for one year, and after that time Mr. Ward and Mr. Reasoner were in practice under the name of Reasoner and Ward until the death of Mr. Reasoner on July 16, 1913. Since then Mr. Ward has been engaged in the practice of his profession alone.

Mr. Ward is a Republican in politics. On February 4, 1904 he married Miss Huldah Kohls of Peru. Mrs. Ward is a member of the Lutheran church, is an estimable lady and takes great pride in her home and family. They have two sons, Wesley C. and Noel A. Ward.

Mr. Ward has made worthy progress in his profession since he began practice, and possesses the energy and determination which insures success. In this connection it may be mentioned that while he was in Indianapolis as a law student, he was employed as stenographer in the office of Addison C. Harris, who was formerly minister to Austria. The money earned by office work made it possible for him to continue his studies in college, and that spirit of self-help displayed in his younger years is bearing fruit in the more mature accomplishments of the present.

**DR. HOMER C. HAAS.** Since 1893 Dr. Homer C. Haas has taken his place among the leading men of Peru, and in his capacity of physician and surgeon has borne his full share of service and responsibility in the community. He was born at Wabash, Indiana, on September 19, 1866, and is one of the five surviving children in a family of seven born to Absolom and Hannah E. (Cox) Haas. Absolom Haas was of German descent, and he passed his life in the merchandise business. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Homer C. Haas was reared in his native city and there received his primary education. He was but a lad when his father moved from the city to a small farming community adjoining the city limits, and there the embryo doctor passed eight years of his young life. In 1888 he began to read medicine in the office of Dr. W. A. Dunn, of Wabash, and continued thus for eight months, making rapid strides in his knowledge and understanding of the subject, under the careful instruction of the older men. In the autumn of that year he matriculated in Hahnemann Medical College, in Chicago, from which he was graduated in March, 1890. Soon thereafter he opened an office at Roann, Indiana, there continuing until 1893, when he came to Peru, and here he has since been engaged in the active practice of his profession. Dr. Haas has made splendid progress in his work, and is known to the fraternity as a student and a thinker.

Dr. Haas has membership in the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 127, in which he has held all the chairs and the Ben Hur order, and he is a member of the Commercial Club of Peru, in which he takes an active interest. He is a Republican, and is a citizen of a fine type.

On March 30, 1892, Dr. Haas was united in marriage with Miss Maude Pearson, of Roann, and to them have been born six children, of whom the three here named are now living: Lewis E., Dorothy Lee, and Mary A. Both the doctor and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the family is one that maintains a high place in the esteem and regard of the best people in the community.



EDWARD HARVEY GRISWOLD, M. D. For more than twenty years physician and surgeon to the Wabash Hospital at Peru, Dr. Griswold has had a position with unnumbered opportunities for service, and has given such an account of his opportunity as to place him in the front rank of the physicians of Miami county and Northern Indiana. To the true physician the responsibility and severe duties connected with such an office as that held by Dr. Griswold come as a matter of routine and are accepted as part of the profession, but it is a matter of gratification to the public to know that such men stand ready to perform such important and often disagreeable service and they do not hesitate to express admiration for the capable men whose lives are devoted to the welfare of humanity in the capacity of physicians and surgeons.

Edward H. Griswold was born in Lexington, Missouri, October 1, 1854. He comes by his profession naturally, since his father, his paternal great-grandfather, and his maternal grandfather were all physicians, and each one a worthy representative of his calling. The Griswold family is of New England ancestry, dating back to the colonial days. The founder of the family in America was Edward Winslow Griswold, who came from England and located at Windsor, Connecticut, in 1639. Harvey Griswold, grandfather of the doctor, when nineteen years of age, moved to the State of Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Dr. Sylvanius Griswold, father of the Peru physician and surgeon, was born in Marthasville, Missouri, August 10, 1832, only about four years after the admission of Missouri to the Union, and was for many years prominent in his profession. He obtained his early education in the Masonic College at Lexington and graduated in medicine from the Missouri Medical College at St. Louis. He married Lockie Ann Arnold, a native of Missouri. The Arnold family was of Scotch ancestry, going back to the famous Douglas Clan. Her father, a native of Virginia, coming at an early date to Missouri, was one of the active physicians of his time. Dr. Arnold, the maternal grandfather, had his home at Lexington, Missouri. Marthasville is a place of special historical significance. It was there that Daniel Boone spent his last days, and died. The great pioneer was buried in a cemetery on land owned by Harvey Griswold, paternal grandfather of the doctor. Some years after the death of Boone, the state of Kentucky requested the keeping of his remains, since Daniel Boone had been more closely identified with Kentucky than with Missouri. The decision in the matter rested with Mr. Harvey Griswold, and he consented on condition that the Kentucky Commissioners should draw up a written contract binding themselves and the state to the erection of a suitable monument to Boone's memory. This contract, now many years old, is in the possession of Dr. E. H. Griswold of Peru. In a little log house, which was put together with wooden pins, according to the pioneer fashion, and which was situated near the burying ground of Daniel Boone, in the vicinity of Marthasville, was held the first conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, west of the Mississippi river.

Edward H. Griswold was reared partly in Lafayette, and partly in Franklin county, Missouri. His early life was spent in the environments and atmosphere of a learned profession, and almost naturally he turned to studies in medicine. His literary education was attained at the Missouri State University at Columbia, and when nineteen years of age, he took up the study of medicine under the direction of his father. March 14, 1891, he was graduated from the University Medical College at Kansas City, and began his practice at the historical town of Marthasville which has been mentioned above. Very soon after-

wards he was offered the position of physician in charge of the Wabash Employes Hospital at Peru, and became a resident of this city on June 1, 1891. During the more than twenty years of his management, the institution which when he first came here was a small and experimental undertaking, has become one of the largest and best equipped railroad hospitals in the middle west. The hospital building is located a short distance north of the Union depot, and is a large brick building, thoroughly equipped with comforts, and all surgical conveniences, and Dr. Griswold has a competent staff at his disposal in the management of the institution. The hospital is considered one of the public institutions of Peru, and one of the assets which increase the importance of this city.

In 1895 Dr. Griswold took a post-graduate course in the New York Polyclinic. He is a member of the Miami County, the Indiana State and the American Medical Societies, a member of the Order of Railway Surgeons, and through his private study and experience and association with the organizations of his profession has kept in close touch and apace with the great advance in medical and surgical knowledge during the twenty years of his own practice.

Dr. Griswold in May, 1895, married Miss Georgine C. Rettig. They are the parents of two sons: Rettig Arnold and Edward Harvey. Mrs. Griswold's parents were George and Georgia Rettig, long residents of Peru. Dr. Griswold and wife are communicants of the Episcopal church, and he is a Knight Templar Mason.

WALTER C. BAILEY. For more than thirty-five years a member of the Miami county bar, Mr. Bailey is one of the senior members of his profession in which he has gained successful distinction and has been not less prominent in the broader fields of citizenship. It was through the avenue of school-teaching that Mr. Bailey finally acquired the means to prepare himself for his profession and to enter upon his active practice, and since his admission to the bar he has also served this county as superintendent of schools.

Walter C. Bailey belongs to one of the pioneer families of Miami county. He was born in what is now Allen township of this county March 16, 1845. So far as can be ascertained his father, Stewart Bailey, was the first brick manufacturer to locate in this county. Stewart Bailey was born in Onondaga county, New York, at Batavia, married Sally Berry, who was a native of Albany; New York, and descendant of Dutch ancestry, and in 1837 with his wife and daughter Melinda, came west to the wilderness country of northern Indiana. He and his family were in company with and rode in the same covered wagon with Mathias Carvey and wife. Salmon Collins, a cousin of Mr. Bailey, at that time lived in Fulton county, just across the line from Miami county, and this fact no doubt influenced the Bailey family in their selection of a home. Stewart Bailey bought forty acres of land in what was then a part of Union township, but has since become Allen township. On that land he began the manufacture of brick, and at the same time conducted farming on a small scale. Up to that time all of the inhabitants had depended almost entirely upon the native timber, and the few sawmills which then existed throughout this section for the material used in the construction of houses and other buildings. With the advent of Stewart Bailey and his enterprise it became possible to use a different material, and one which introduced a more permanent and a more attractive form of residence in this vicinity.

Before leaving the east for Indiana, Stewart Bailey had shipped his furniture from Buffalo to Michigan City. After locating in Miami



county, he hired a man and team to go with him to Michigan City to get the goods. Michigan City was at that time the great lake port and market for all northern Indiana. On arriving at Michigan City, it was learned that the goods had been carried on to Chicago by mistake. Mr. Bailey then sent the team back and walked to Chicago, where he found his goods. Chicago was at that time just about to be incorporated as a city, but was still a small town about the mouth of the river, the old fort still stood on the banks of the river and it was little more than a rival of the other lake port of the south, Michigan City. He brought his goods by lake to Michigan City, and thence conveyed them overland into Miami county.

In 1850 Stewart Bailey moved his family to Logansport and in the vicinity of that town was engaged in the manufacture of brick until the fall of 1854, at which date he returned to Miami county. The father of his wife at that time lived in Union township, and the Baileys also lived in the same neighborhood, and with the exception of the years of the war, during which time they made their home in Marshall county, continued to reside in Union township until the time of their death. The father was an oldline Whig during his early career, and subsequently became a Republican. When a boy he had been converted to the Methodist faith, and was licensed as a local preacher, being widely known throughout this section of Indiana as an exhorter and revivalist. Eleven children were born to Stewart Bailey and wife, ten of them reaching maturity, and five now living.

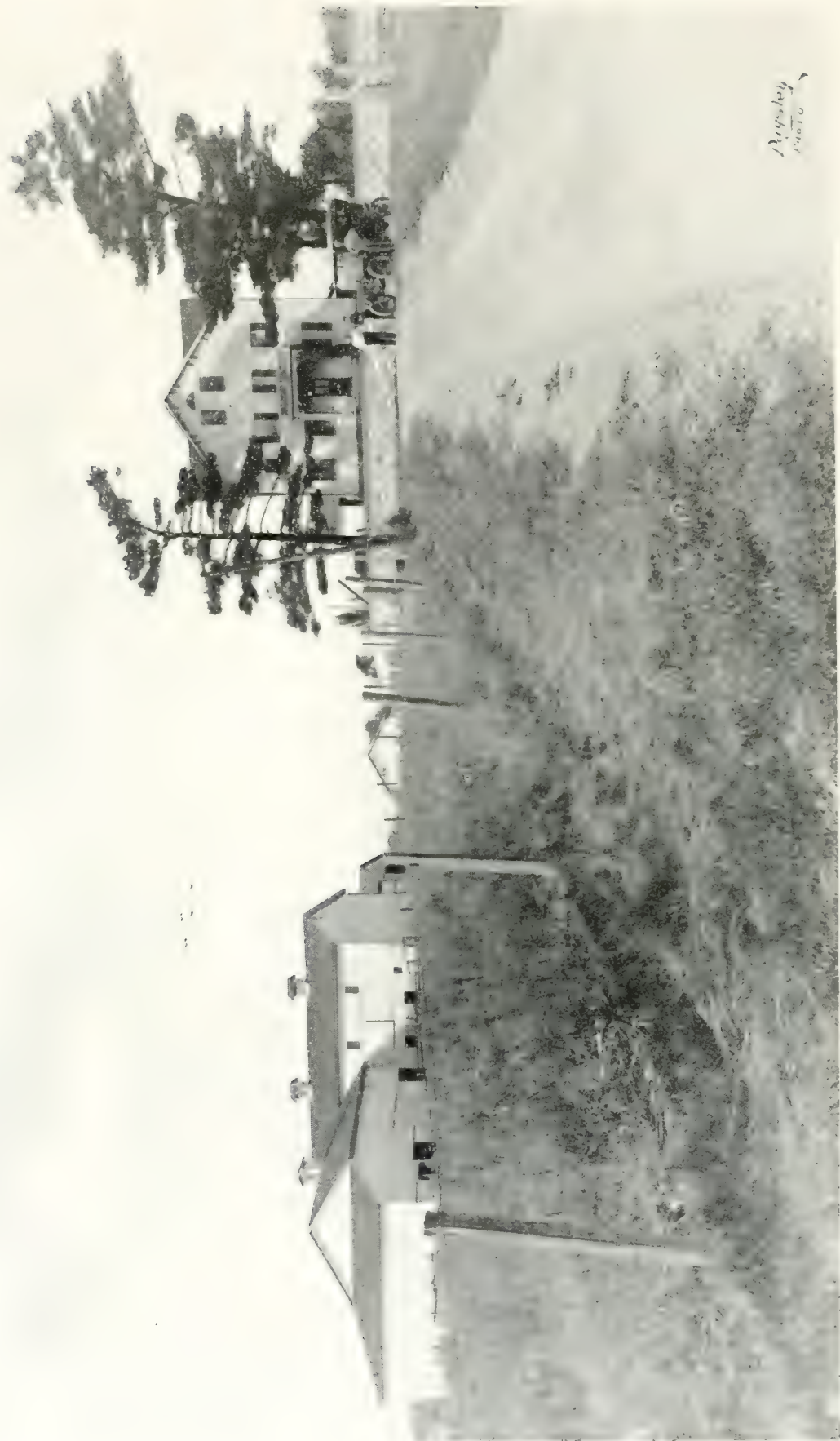
Walter C. Bailey, who was the fifth in this family, was reared on a farm, and at the same time worked about his father's brick-making plant, and learned about everything there was in that industry. Hard work and perseverance were the means by which he prepared himself for a career of larger usefulness, and among the active members of the Miami county bar, there is none whose title of self-made man is better justified and is more a reason for pride. During his boyhood his educational opportunities were limited, and the first school he attended was taught in a log cabin. He subsequently attended school at Bourdon, and then one year in the high school at Plymouth. By alternate teaching and study he progressed gradually but surely towards the goal of his ambition. In December, 1864, when a boy of nineteen, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, but was rejected through the influence exerted by his father over the colonel. Two of his older brothers Stewart J. and Wellington E. were already in the army and the father thought that their service was sufficient sacrifice on the part of this family.

Mr. Bailey continued to teach school during the winter and manufacture brick during the summer until 1873. At that date he took up the active study of law, and in 1874 entered the law office of Corbin & Chaney at Plymouth. While a regular law student, he also continued teaching school until his admission to the bar in 1876.

Mr. Bailey then located at Peru, and began practice as a lawyer. From June, 1881, to June, 1885, he served as county superintendent of schools, but with the exception of that period has given his undivided attention to his profession, and for many years has been recognized as one of the strongest attorneys of this county. From 1896 to 1908 he was in partnership with Mr. Charles A. Cole, under the firm name of Bailey & Cole. This partnership was dissolved in 1908 to make room for two new firms, that of Bailey & Bailey, and of Cole & Cole. Each of the former partners had at that time a son, who had begun practice, and both partnerships now consist of father and sons, and the offices of both firms are in the same building.







Agassiz  
Photo

“THE GRIMES HOMESTEAD GRANGE”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM GRIMES



Wm. Linn



Louise M. Linn





Mr. Bailey married on May 31, 1876, Miss Elizabeth Thompson, the second daughter of Dr. Valentine Thompson of Union City. Her death occurred a few months after the marriage, on October 3, 1876. At Moscow, Michigan, on September 23, 1880, Mr. Bailey married Mary B. McCowan. Four children have been born to this marriage, namely: Estelle C., who is the wife of Oren B. Schutt, of Champaign, Illinois; Henry S., who is the junior partner of his father in the firm of Bailey & Bailey; Webster R., who is a practising lawyer at Visalia, California; and Linus M., who is now in the University of Illinois at Champaign. The mother of these children passed away on May 1, 1909, at Long Beach, California. Mr. Bailey has long been one of the influential Republicans of this county, is affiliated with the Masonic Order, the Order of Elks and the Maccabees, and has given his ready cooperation in all measurements and movements for the improvement and betterment of his community. He has taken a very active part in the recent movement for setting aside by state authority, of the Missisniewa battle ground as a park for the permanent use and enjoyment of the people. Mr. Bailey is a man of genial character, and has long been one of the most popular men of Peru and is well known throughout the state.

**HARRISON GRIMES AND WILLIAM GRIMES.** Among the pioneers of Miami county, Indiana, mention should be made of Harrison Grimes, for he was not only one of the early settlers but a man of great prominence and influence in the county. A man of great industry and tenacity, typical of that generation that changed the middle states from primeval forests and untouched prairies to prosperous farms. His death was a blow to the community but perhaps his best work lives after him in the persons of his children. Of these William Grimes is a true son of his father. A successful farmer, he also finds the time to interest himself in public matters and in the welfare of the community. He is active and wide awake, progressive in his ideas and a valuable citizen for any community.

Harrison Grimes was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, on the 14th of February, 1823, the eldest of the children born to Jeremiah and Barbara (Hashbarger) Grimes. His father was a native of Maryland and was of Irish ancestry, while his mother was born in Virginia and was of Dutch descent. Harrison Grimes was only a lad of ten when he left the parental roof and went to Preble county, Ohio. Here he bound himself out to a farmer, the understanding being that when he became of age his employer, one Jacob Harter, should release him and pay him \$150. He worked for his board and clothing until he was sixteen and then continued under different terms until he had reached his majority. Instead of abiding by the original agreement, the young man agreed to accept \$100, and a horse and with this as his capital, he started out in life for himself. In March, 1844, he left Ohio and came to Miami county, Indiana, making his way, almost entirely, on foot. He worked here on a farm until the following June and then he walked back to Preble county, Ohio. He did not remain long, however, for the ensuing August found him on his way back to Indiana, this time mounted on a horse. For a year he worked at farming and any odd jobs he could pick up, and he hoarded his money almost like a miser, for while he was far from a miser in reality, he realized that he must have land of his own before he could make much of his life. In 1846 he was able to buy ninety acres of land in Union township on section 16, and he at once set to work clearing and grubbing this property, for it was then in a primeval condition, untouched by man. Only those early settlers who did such work themselves can fully appre-



ciate the amount of hard work that his task involved, and he accomplished it without any assistance whatever. With such a deed as this to his credit in the early twenties it is not surprising that as time passed he grew prosperous. He bought additional land with his savings and at one time he owned something like a thousand acres of valuable land.

Shortly after he had permanently located in Miami county, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Brower, a native of Montgomery county, Ohio, and a daughter of George Brower, who is given further mention elsewhere in this work. The wedding took place on the 4th of May, 1845, and from the very beginning of their married life Mrs. Brower was a true wife in every sense of the word, doing all in her power to aid in the establishment of a home and in saving the money to obtain for their children an education.

Mr. Grimes died on the 18th of March, 1895, in Denver, Indiana, whither he had moved during the latter part of his life. He had retired from the active work of the farm, although he never lost interest in it. He was a liberal contributor to all public enterprises and those of a charitable nature and his death was considered a real calamity to the community in which he spent his last years. His funeral services were conducted from the residence and he was laid to rest in West Lawn cemetery. His wife lived only a few months after the death of her husband, passing away on October 16, 1895, and the same minister who conducted the funeral of her husband, Elder Jacob Fisher, also held the services when she was laid to rest beside her husband in West Lawn cemetery.

The children of this devoted couple were nine in number and of these five are living. Josiah, who was born on July 31, 1846, married Ellen Seibert and died on the 6th of June, 1911. Hiram who was born on January 5, 1848, married Jane Burkett and died September, 1880. John H. was born on the 1st of March, 1849, and died on February 11, 1853. Sarah D. who was born August 22, 1851, became the wife of William H. Howes, and died February 6, 1904. George T., born on the 24th of October, 1854, married Rose Sawyer and lives in Savage, Indiana. Albert, whose birth took place on the 5th of September, 1856, married Margaret Trent and resides in Peru township, Miami county. Martha J., born December 24, 1857, married William H. Davis and lives in Akron, Indiana. William, who was born on the 29th of June, 1859, and Charles, who was born October 13, 1868, married Ella Friend and now resides in Denver, Indiana.

William Grimes grew up on the old home place, aiding his father and elder brothers in the work of the farm. He attended the district schools of the neighborhood, and after he had completed his schooling, he aided his father until his marriage at the early age of twenty. It was on the 2nd of October, 1879, that he was married to Miss Mary Louise Howes, a daughter of Henry and Mary J. (Speck) Howes. Mrs. Grimes was born on the 25th of September, 1864, in Miami county, Indiana, the second in a family of three children, one son and two daughters, born to Henry and Mary J. (Speck) Howes, Mrs. Grimes being the only child now living. Mr. Howes was a native of Vermont, the old Green Mountain state, born June 19, 1816, and he died November 19, 1898. He was an agriculturist and was educated in the primitive schools of New England. He was a man of superior mind and intellectuality and one who had the confidence and respect of all who knew him. Politically he was first an old-line Whig and then a Republican, voting for the first nominee of the party for president, General John C. Fremont. He was assessor of his township. It was in 1836 that he came to Miami county, Indiana, when the Miami Indians, the bear, deer, panthers, and

wolves were plentiful, and he was one of the founders of the county. Both he and wife were devout members of the Baptist church. Mrs. Howes is a native of Ross county, Ohio, born December 29, 1840, and she makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Grimes. She is now seventy-three years of age, and is bright and active. There were two children born to Mr. and Mrs. William Grimes. The elder is Dora Mabel. She was born November 28, 1880, and received her diploma from the public schools, and then took a musical course at the Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, Indiana. She wedded Charles O. Derck, who is an agriculturist of Miami county, and is one of its progressive young farmers. They have two children, Miriam Louise and Grimes Benjamin. Mr. and Mrs. Derck are members of the Baptist church and fraternally Mr. Derck is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees and the Gleaners and Mrs. Derck is also a member of the last named order.

Maude Elizabeth, born July 18, 1882, received her diploma from the public schools, spent one year in the Denver high school and has taken musical instruction. She wedded Edward E. Saline, who is a well educated man and cashier of The International Harvester Company at South Bend, Indiana. They have had two children, but the elder, William Edward, is deceased. Cecilia E., the younger, is in the second grade of school. Mrs. Saline is a member of the Methodist church.

Mrs. Grimes, the mother, was educated in the Denver public schools and was reared in her home county. She is a lady of pleasing address and personality and has hosts of friends.

After his marriage William Grimes farmed the Howes property in Union township for about thirteen years. He then bought his father's old place, and has since made his home on what has always been known as the Grimes place. He is the owner of 180 acres in this one farm and owns about 600 acres in all, this being all located within Miami county. In addition to his farming operations Mr. Grimes deals in stock to a considerable extent.

In politics Mr. Grimes was a Republican, until 1912 when he felt that the Progressive party had the stronger and better platform and more fully filled the country's need. He consequently voted the Progressive ticket and was himself the candidate of the party for the office of county commissioner, though defeated. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Knights of Maccabees. His wife is an active member of the Baptist church. The beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. Grimes is known as "The Grimes Homestead Grange."

REV. JOHN H. GUENDLING. Representing a family which located in Miami county more than seventy years ago, Father Guendling is the irremovable rector of St. Charles Catholic Church at Peru. His parents were worthy German people, who during the pioneer era settled in this county, were farmers, developed a rural home in Washington township and having contributed by their own thrift and labors to the material development of this region also gave three of their sons to the services of the church and humanity.

John H. Guendling was born on the old farm in Washington township December 19, 1855, a son of John and Mary Frances (Faust) Guendling. The parents were natives of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. In order to better their circumstances they migrated to America, and in 1840 located in the then little improved and almost wilderness of Washington township, Miami county. They contended with the hardships of pioneer life, made a productive farm, and reared a large family of children. The parents were devout Catholics, brought up



their children in that faith, and it was always a matter of gratification to the old people that three of their sons entered the priesthood.

Father John H. Guendling was reared on the old farm, and in 1870, at the age of fifteen, entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary at Cincinnati, where he completed his classical studies. He was then sent to the North American College at Rome, Italy, in 1876, but ill health in that environment obliged him to return to his native country in 1878. He then entered the Sulpician Seminary at Baltimore, where he completed his studies in theology and was ordained a priest in the Cathedral at Fort Wayne, Indiana, by Bishop Dwenger on July 2, 1880. During the same month he was appointed by Bishop Dwenger as Superintendent of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum at Lafayette, Indiana, a position of many responsibilities which he efficiently discharged until July 1, 1898. On the 3d of the latter month he was appointed pastor of the Cathedral at Fort Wayne, and in January, 1899, was made vicar-general by Bishop Rademacher. On January 12, 1900, occurred the death of Bishop Rademacher, and until the present Bishop Alerding took up his duties in the diocese Father Guendling was administrator for this diocese. On being relieved of those duties, he recuperated his failing health by extensive travels in the west. From June 29, 1901, to July 4, 1902, he was pastor-in-charge at Goshen, this state. On the latter date he was named successor to Father Meissner, deceased, as rector of the St. Charles church in Peru.

Father Guendling is a member of the Bishop's Council, and of the Diocesan school board. In his parish at Peru he has endeared himself to his large congregation by a singular devotion to the welfare of the church as an organization, and of its individual members, and he is both a priest and a citizen, possessing those sterling qualities of mind and ideals of service which make him a factor of fine usefulness.

FRED W. SENGER. Undoubtedly the most conspicuous mercantile establishment of the modern city of Peru is the Senger Dry Goods Company Store of Peru, at the northeast corner of Broadway and Fifth street. To omit mention of this establishment among the mercantile enterprises of Peru would be as serious as to fail to mention the court house in giving a list of the public buildings of the county seat. Solid, substantial and prosperous in every department and feature, the Senger Store is nevertheless one of the younger mercantile enterprises of the city of Peru, beginning its career April 11, 1906. Its present executive head came to Peru less than twenty years ago, his advent into the city being marked by the date November 4, 1895, and began his career as a clerk in one of the stores of that time. His business success has been remarkable among the careers of Miami County merchants, and Fred W. Senger stands today as one of the most influential and enterprising business men of this section of Indiana.

Fred W. Senger, who is a native of Danville, Illinois, was born March 25, 1875, and is a son of Peter and Frances (Royer) Senger, both of whom are now residents of Danville. He was reared in his native city, where he attended the Catholic parochial schools and where he also attained his first experience in business affairs as a boy assistant in his father's store. At the age of nineteen he came to Peru and was employed for ten years in one establishment. This took him up to the age of twenty-nine years, and at that time he was ready to begin his independent career as a merchant. He had in the meantime become a friend of Col. B. E. Wallace the great showman, and with Colonel Wallace and Mr. C. E. Cory, a nephew of the Colonel, he formed a co-partnership and the Senger Store Company was launched. This venture, with the financial







*Frank D. Butler*

backing of Colonel Wallace and the splendid enthusiasm and business judgment of Mr. Senger and Mr. Cory, prospered from the very start. The business opened in a small room in the McCafferay Block, now occupied by the Woolworth Five and Ten Cent Corporation, and in less than two years the Senger Store was looking for larger quarters.

In February, 1908, Colonel Wallace purchased the building at the corner of Fifth and Broadway. A building 66x110 feet stood there then, three story and basement, and this they had rebuilt into a building especially designed for a new and up-to-date store, and in its appointments and facilities for the successful handling of its business, the new store is at least twenty-five years ahead of other mercantile enterprises of Peru. The Senger Store is the most conspicuous and attractive on Broadway today. It is equipped with its own power and lighting plant, and has one hundred and seventy six feet of window space for display purposes, with 29,040 square feet of floor space. The interior fixtures, such as show cases, etc. are of San Domingo mahogany, edged with Tennessee marble, with French beveled plate glass, and satin finished brass. Sixty-three persons are employed in the store and it is the only exclusive dry goods store in the city of Peru, devoting all of its floor space to the sale of merchandise for women, misses and children and home furnishings. It is the largest store of its kind in this section of Indiana and has among its regular customers people who live within a radius of fifty miles of the city.

Although devoted to his business, Mr. Senger takes an interested part in local affairs. He is a communicant of the Catholic church and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge No. 365 of Peru.

Mr. Senger married on September 9, 1902, Miss Margaret McCarthy of Peru, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. McCarthy, who live on West Eighth street. Their four children are Frederick Jr., aged nine; Rosanna, seven years old; John Mack, aged four and Mary, a year and a half old.

FRANK D. BUTLER. It has been given Mr. Butler to attain to marked prestige as one of the representative members of the bar of his native county and state and to wield definite and salutary influence in connection with public affairs, especially those of a local order. He is engaged in the active general practice of law in the city of Peru, the attractive capital of Miami county, where he has followed the work of his profession for nearly a quarter of a century and where he has maintained his offices in the First National Bank building from the time of his novitiate in the law to the present day, which finds him arrayed as one of the strong and resourceful lawyers and leading practitioners of this section of the state. His career has been marked by earnest and consecutive endeavor and his course has been guided and governed by integrity and honor as well as by high appreciation of the dignity and responsibility of his chosen vocation, in which his effort has at all times been to conserve justice and equity. He has served as county and city attorney and is at the present time the valued incumbent of the former office, besides which he gave a most effective administration as prosecuting attorney of the Fifty-first judicial circuit. He is a liberal and progressive citizen, has honored his native county by his character and achievements and is most consistently accorded specific recognition in this publication.

Frank D. Butler was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Richland township, Miami county, Indiana, on the 30th of September, 1858, and is a scion of a family whose name became identified



with the civic and industrial development of the county more than three-fourths of a century ago, when this section of the state was little more than a frontier wilderness, with the pioneer settlers bravely laboring to forward the march of civilization by causing the forest wilds to give place to the cultivated and productive fields. Jesse B. Butler, father of him whose name initiates this review, was a native of Wayne county, this state, and this fact indicates that the family was numbered among the very early settlers of that staunch old county. Jesse B. Butler was reared and educated in Wayne county, a center of the fine colonization on the part of the representatives of the Society of Friends, and a section in which educational advantages in the pioneer days were of higher order than those of the average pioneer community. During the years of a long and useful career as one of the world's productive workers Jesse B. Butler never severed his allegiance to the great basic industry of agriculture, in connection with which he endured the sturdy labors of the pioneer and eventually gained independence and definite prosperity. About the year 1835 he came to Miami county, where he secured a tract of government land, the major part of which was heavily timbered, and thus became one of the pioneer settlers of Perry township. He erected a primitive log house of the type common to the pioneer days and then set himself vigorously to the task of reclaiming his land from the virgin forest. In thus taking up the battle of life the young pioneer realized the consistency of having a companion and helpmeet, and, knowing well that the gracious young woman of his choice would prove his ideal mate, he soon left his embryonic farm and returned to his native county, where, at the home of the bride's parents, near Hagerstown, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Hannah Weeks, who likewise was born and reared in Wayne county. The young couple came to the little log cabin home and, sustained by mutual devotion and purpose, they worked together to develop their farm in Perry township, where each year gave tangible evidence of their faithful labors. In 1857 they sold the original farm and removed to southwestern Missouri, but one winter passed in that locality vitalized anew their appreciation of the old home in Miami county, with the result that the spring of 1858 found them returned to this county, where Mr. Butler purchased the Lawrence farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, eligibly located on Eel river, in Richland township. On this fine old homestead in the autumn of the same year in their log cabin home was born the son Frank D., to whom this sketch is dedicated. Jesse B. Butler continued to devote his attention to the improving and cultivation of this homestead place and made the same one of the model farms of the county. Here came to him the great loss and bereavement of his life, for in 1863 his loved and devoted wife passed to eternal rest, a woman whose life had been a vitalized beatitude and whose memory is revered by those who knew her. He survived her by somewhat more than a decade and continued to reside on his farm until his death, which occurred in 1874. He was a man of indefatigable industry, of strong character and of broad views, was a citizen who did well his part in the development and upbuilding of Miami county, on the roster of whose honored pioneers his name merits enduring inscription. Of the nine children only two are now living. Jesse B. Butler was a staunch Democrat in his political adherency and both he and his wife were zealous members of the Quaker church.

Well may Frank D. Butler view with pleasing and grateful retrospect the scenes and incidents of his youthful experience in connection with the old homestead farm on which he was born and in the work of which he early began to contribute his quota. He availed himself of

the advantages of the district schools and was about fifteen years of age when he was doubly orphaned by the death of his honored father. He continued thereafter to assist in the work and management of the home farm, and was not denied further educational advantages, as he attended a school at North Manchester, was for a time a student in the Northern Indiana Normal School, now known as Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, and thereafter completed a somewhat intervalic course of two years in Purdue University, at Lafayette, this state. When 20 years of age he obtained a position as "cub" reporter and general factotum on the staff of the *Lafayette Courier*, and he was thus identified with practical newspaper work about two years, within which he gained experience which he insists has proved of greater value to him than any specific academic instruction he received in his youth.

In the autumn of 1880 Mr. Butler returned to his home in Miami county, to cast his first presidential vote, in support of the Democratic candidates, Hancock and English, and during the intervening years he has not wavered in his allegiance to the fine old party of Jefferson and Jackson, the party whose star is once more in ascendancy, since the national election of 1912. Soon after exercising his franchise with more of dignity and imperturbability than have characterized similar indulgences in later years, Mr. Butler accepted the appointment to the position of deputy sheriff of his native county, under Andrew J. Parks, who had just been elected to the shrievalty. He served as deputy during the two successive terms of Sheriff Parks, a period of four years, and was reappointed under the regime of Mr. Parks' successor, Edward T. Gray, who held office four years, so that Mr. Butler's service as deputy covered a total of eight consecutive years. In 1884 and again in 1888 he himself sought nomination for the office of sheriff, but his desires fell short of realization.

In the autumn of 1888 Mr. Butler became private secretary to Hon. David Turpie, United States senator from Indiana, and he served in this capacity, in the city of Washington, for two years. In the meanwhile he had decided that clerical and political positions offered no profitable future for him, and accordingly, during the intervals between the sessions of congress, he took up the study of law, with characteristic determination and assiduousness, his able and valued preceptor having been Ethan T. Reasoner, who was one of the leading members of the bar of Miami county, with residence and professional headquarters in Peru. He was admitted to the bar of his native state in 1889, while still with Senator Turpie in Washington, and he was thus absent in the national capital when he received in his home state the Democratic nomination for the office of prosecuting attorney of the Fifty-first judicial circuit, to which position he was elected in the autumn of 1890, whereupon he resigned his position as private secretary to Senator Turpie, to initiate his active professional career as the incumbent of an important and exacting office. The young lawyer eminently justified the faith and confidence of those who had given him their support at the polls, and under somewhat unusual circumstances he thus gained his professional spurs and made such an admirable record that at the expiration of his first term, of two years, he was re-elected, by an appreciably larger majority, with the result that he continued in service as public prosecutor for this circuit for four consecutive years, when he retired with a high reputation as an able and resourceful trial lawyer. Since that time he has been successfully engaged in the active practice of his profession in Peru and he has appeared in connection with many important causes presented in the various courts of the state, including the federal courts. His clientele is of representative order and during



the many years of his practice he has had no professional partner at any time. He has twice been elected city attorney and in all has held this office for six years. In 1910 he was again chosen for this position, of which he has continued the able and valued incumbent. During his former term of service as county attorney were made the preliminary arrangements for the erection of the new court house, and all legal affairs pertaining thereto were entrusted to him. He has shown the deepest interest in all that touches the welfare of his home city and native county, and is one of the liberal and progressive citizens of the same, with impregnable vantage-ground in popular confidence and esteem.

Mr. Butler has given yeoman service in behalf of the Democratic party and has been an influential factor in its councils in Indiana. He was a delegate to the Democratic national convention of 1912, when Woodrow Wilson was made the nominee for president, and thus he views with unqualified satisfaction the results of the national election of that year. In his home city he is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Royal Arcanum, of which latter fraternity he was grand regent for Indiana from 1907 to 1909.

On the 20th of September, 1898, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Butler to Miss Minnie Merrill, and she is a most popular factor in the leading social activities of her home city. Mr. and Mrs. Butler have two children, Frances Dorothy and Robert Merrill. Mrs. Butler is a member of the Presbyterian church.

During the very early stages of the great flood disaster of 1913, Mr. Butler left his own home and family and in a volunteer way led the work of rescue and first relief succor to thousands of refugees quartered at the court house, the only dry spot in the city. He remained on duty night and day and on the third day of the flood tide, with the assistance of Hon. William P. O'Neil, Lieutenant Governor, brought organization out of chaos, resulting in a town meeting, at which Mr. Butler was called to preside. From this meeting a committee of four were chosen, denominated the Flood Executive Relief Committee, with Mr. Butler as chairman, the other three members being Lieutenant Governor O'Neil and Ambrose A. Bailey of the Baptist church and Richard A. Edwards, president of the First National Bank. This committee immediately took charge and, clothed with authority invested in them also by the sheriff of the county and the mayor of the city, established permanent headquarters in the court house, in what is known as the rest room. They summoned citizens, created sub-committees, called to their aid state, county and city health officials, and began the work in organized form of first aid, relief, and a general sanitary cleaning up. In the meantime a finance committee was started out to raise funds and provisions and supplies coming in from all quarters by generous donors was systematically taken in hand and the distribution in all parts of the city accomplished. This committee, without the expenditure of a dollar, for three weeks with the aid of an army of citizens and visiting workers as volunteers, rescued refugees and restored them to their homes, cleared the debris, and disinfected against pestilence. Thousands were fed and clothed and confidence of safety and protection against pillage and rapine restored. During all this time Mr. Butler was indefatigable in the work, keeping in touch with every branch and form of the reconstruction and resurrection as it were of the stricken city. As time went, the work of his committee was restricted to himself, Bailey and Edwards, and for three months they continued at their headquarters, receiving, managing, and distributing assistance to flood sufferers, working far into each night. By their efforts thousands of dollars were especially secured from various sources, including the Red Cross, for expenditures in the work of rehabili-

tation. More than thirty car loads of provisions and supplies were received and distributed and it has been conservatively estimated that in all, over \$100,000 of provisions, clothing, bedding, furniture and money was distributed before the work of this committee was ended, and about two thousand families and homes in some form materially aided. During all this period Mr. Butler, as chairman of his committee, absented himself from his office and business at a great sacrifice and devoted his time, efforts and organizing ability to the cause gratuitously and without reward other than the gratitude of an appreciative people. He says himself that the tears of unfortunates expressive of gratitude as they received their allowances and aid more than compensated him for all he did and the service rendered as chairman of this charitable movement.

DANIEL W. CONDO. The fiscal affairs of Miami county at the present time are consigned to the administration of one of the county's native sons and one who has ever maintained strong hold upon popular confidence and esteem. He is now serving his second term as county treasurer, and as one of the loyal and progressive citizens and valued officials of the county he is properly accorded specific recognition in this publication.

In Clay township, this county, Daniel W. Condo was born on the 24th of October, 1866, and he is a son of John and Cynthia (Phillips) Condo. John Condo was born in the state of Pennsylvania and was a child at the time of his parents' removal from that state to Indiana. His father became one of the pioneer farmers of Wayne county, this state, where he continued to reside, an honored and influential citizen, until his death, as did also his wife. John Condo was reared to manhood in that fine old county, in which the staunch Society of Friends, or Quakers, early found many sterling representatives, and he never severed his allegiance to the great basic industry of agriculture, though for a number of years he was employed in the shops in which was manufactured the Condo plow. This implement was designed and patented by Adam Condo and it gained wide reputation and demand in the early days. A few years prior to the Civil war John Condo removed with his family to Miami county and established his residence on a farm in Clay township. Here he developed a valuable property and became one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the county. He was a man of superior intellectuality, was an extensive and appreciative reader and student of good literature and was well informed concerning the questions and issues of the day, with well fortified opinions concerning governmental and economic policies, so that he wielded no uncertain influence in the directing of popular sentiment in his home community. He was an unswerving adherent of the Republican party and was a most zealous and devout member of the United Brethren church. He continued to reside on his farm until his death, which occurred in the year 1884. The maiden name of his first wife was Baker, and they became the parents of five sons and one daughter. His second wife, whose maiden name was Cynthia Phillips, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, and still survives him. She now maintains her home in Miami county, and of the five sons of this union, four are living. His mother, now venerable in years, is held in affectionate regard by all who know her and she is a devoted member of the United Brethren church.

Reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm, Daniel W. Condo gained his early educational training in the district schools of Clay township, and thereafter he completed effective normal and business courses in the fine institution now known as Valparaiso University,



in the city of Valparaiso, Indiana. After the death of his honored father Mr. Condo went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he remained about four and one-half years as an employe in a wholesale hardware establishment. He then returned to his native county, but a year later he went to Elwood, Madison county, where he assumed a clerical position in a department store and where he continued to reside about six years, within which he advanced to the position of exclusive manager of two departments in the large establishment in which he was employed. Upon resigning his place at Elwood Mr. Condo returned to Miami county and again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, with which he continued to be actively identified until 1902, when he accepted the position of deputy county treasurer, under the regime of Harry Masters. Three years later Frank Spaulding was elected county treasurer and by him Mr. Condo was retained in the position of deputy until the close of his term of four years. Mr. Condo himself was then chosen for the important post of county treasurer, in the election of November, 1908, and his zealous and able administration found emphatic popular approval in his re-election in the autumn of 1910 for a second term of four years, which will expire January 1, 1914.

In politics Mr. Condo has been found aligned as a stalwart and effective advocate of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor, and recent events in the political history of the nation have not caused him to abate his faith in the basic tenets of the old party that has long held his allegiance. His wife holds a membership in the Presbyterian church in Peru. He is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

On the 6th of April, 1906, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Condo to Miss Clara Bash, of Peru, and they have two children, Helen Elizabeth and John Bash. Mrs. Condo was born in Indiana, and is a daughter of John Bash, now deceased.

**DANIEL KING.** For more than half a century the King name and King enterprise have been important factors in the material development and the civic life of Miami county, particularly in Richland township, which was the original home of Daniel King, and in which township his activities have been chiefly centered. Mr. King is now a venerable man of eighty-three years and has seen much of life, has labored hard, and from a beginning when he was dependent upon his manual toil for his self-support he has long since passed that stage at which a competence is acquired, and when a man may properly enjoy the fruits of a well spent life.

Daniel King was born in Dersheim, Germany, on December 10, 1830, a son of Daniel and a grandson of Martin King. His mother's maiden name was Mary Shriner, a daughter of John Shriner. When twenty-three years of age, having been reared in his native land, and trained to habits of industry and thrift, Daniel King left Germany in 1853, and spent fifty-three days on the voyage across the sea. He was short of funds, and although his destination was Miami county, he had to stop at Cincinnati for some time in order to get sufficient money to carry him the rest of the way. He worked at whatever he could find in that Ohio River city, and was employed in a packing house at wages of one dollar and twenty cents a day for some time, from which he had to board himself, and was afterwards given a job at ten dollars a month including board. He also worked in a livery stable in Cincinnati. In 1854, the following year, he came on to Miami county, being two days en route from Cincinnati, a journey that may now be accomplished in



MR. AND MRS. DANIEL KING'S FAMILY GROUP





a few hours. After arriving in Miami county, he worked for wages as low as fifty cents per day, and subsequently considered it quite an advance when he was given sixty-two cents for a day's labor. Even at that he saved a little money, and gradually got ahead in the world.

In Miami county in 1861, seven years after his arrival, and after he was familiar with the people and the country, and was making a living, Mr. King married Mary King, a daughter of Walton and Saloma (Tier) King. To Mrs. King her husband assigns much credit for their subsequent prosperity, since she has been not only the companion of his home and the mother of his children, but has aided him in many ways, and has been a hard worker. Mrs. King's people were also from Germany, and had settled first in Ohio, but after eighteen months came on to Miami county. They first located in Richland township, and her father, who was a miller, was employed for some time by Robert Loveland's father. Mrs. King's mother died at an early age and her father was three times married, after that. Daniel King on first arriving in Miami county did a varied assortment of labor. He handled an ax, and has cleared many acres of standing timber from off the fertile soil of this county. Afterwards he bought some land and put up a mill, in 1858. He sold that in 1861, and then bought eighty acres of land in Wabash county. Later selling that place he bought land in Perry township of Miami county, where he remained until 1865. He then began farming as his regular vocation and continued it as long as he was able to work. Most of his farming career has been passed in Richard township. His management and labors have been very productive, and at the present time he is listed among the land owners and taxpayers of Miami county as the owner of two hundred and one acres in Perry township, eighty acres in his home place in Richland, and also one hundred and nineteen acres in another part of Richland township. On his farm he has put up two barns and three dwellings and many other improvements. Both Mr. and Mrs. King were brought up in the faith of the Lutheran church.

Mr. King has witnessed the laying of two different corner stones of the Miami county court house. He is one of the prospering men of his township, and has been honored with official responsibility by his fellow citizens. He served as county commissioner for six years, and it is noteworthy that during that period Miami county was in better shape financially than it now is, since it was then out of debt. In politics Mr. King adheres to Democratic doctrine, although he has no narrow restrictions binding him to any one political creed. In 1891, after an absence of nearly forty years, Mr. King went back to his old home in Germany, remaining nine weeks and in 1900 again crossed the ocean and spent four months in the Fatherland.

To Mr. and Mrs. King have been born nine children, two of whom are now deceased; namely: Frieda, who married Adam M. Nieswendel; Minnie, married John Cotterman, now deceased; and for her second husband married A. Longnecker; Adlin married John Meyers. Lizzie, married Link Meyers; Stella is the wife of James Wilson; George, married Melissa Day, and he died at the age of thirty-seven. Charles married Clara Baltimore; Anna is the wife of James Ansley. Maggie, who is now deceased, was the wife of Joseph Keim.

CHARLES R. HUGHES. Closely identified with the civic and business interests of the thriving little city of Peru, where he has maintained his home since 1873, Mr. Hughes has gained impregnable place in the confidence and esteem of the people of Miami county and has been called upon to serve in various positions of public trust, including that of



county clerk, of which office he continued the incumbent for a period of eight years. He has ever shown a most loyal and helpful interest in all that touches the general welfare of the community and he is at present time president of the board of education of his home city. He is a native of the fine old Hoosier state and his loyalty to the same is of the most insistent order, the while he is a scion of a family whose name has long been identified with Indiana annals.

Mr. Hughes was born in Indianapolis, the capital city of Indiana, on the 30th of November, 1858, and is a son of Isham and Serepta (Orm) Hughes, both of whom were born in the state of Kentucky, which in the early days contributed a fine element of citizenship to Indiana. Isham Hughes was one of the early locomotive engineers of Indiana, and in its capital city in the pioneer days he was a valued member of the old volunteer fire brigade, which utilized primitive fire-engines that were operated by hand power. For many years he followed the vocation of locomotive engineer, and his experience compassed the development of railroading from crude form to that of modern facilities, so that his reminiscences in connection with this important line of public-utility service were most varied and interesting. He was originally in the employ of the old Indianapolis & Madison Railway Company, the first to operate a passenger service line in Indiana; later was an engineer for the Indianapolis, Peru & Chicago Railroad, now a part of the Lake Erie & Western system; and finally he became one of the best known and most valued engineers in the service of the Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad, commonly known as the Big Four. He was in active service as an engineer for a period of about forty years, and after his resignation from the employ of the Big Four company he lived virtually retired until his death, at a venerable age. He passed the closing years of his life at Kokomo, this state, where he died on the 1st of July, 1912. He was a man of genial and buoyant disposition, was widely known throughout Indiana and in railway circles, and his friends were in number as his acquaintances. He was a stalwart Democrat in his political proclivities and during the greater part of his mature life he held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife likewise was a devoted member, her death having occurred in October, 1896. Of their seven children three sons and two daughters are now living.

The excellent public schools of Indiana's capital city afforded to Charles R. Hughes his early educational advantages, which included those of the Shortridge high school, in which he was graduated. He thereafter attended a business college in Minneapolis, his native city, and prepared himself for the practical work of life. At the age of seventeen and eighteen while attending school Mr. Hughes read law in the office and under the preceptorship of the representative firm of Baker, Hoard & Hendricks, the principals of which were leading members of the Indianapolis bar, Mr. Hendricks having later been vice-president of the United States, during the administration of President Cleveland. The dry intricacies of the law did not appeal greatly to the active and ambitious young student, and at the expiration of one year he abandoned his technical reading and made a radical change in his plans, as, on the 4th of July, 1873, he assumed the position of fireman on the Indianapolis, Peru, & Chicago Railroad. He soon showed inherent predilection for railroad work and was advanced to the position of engineer, in which he served nearly a quarter of a century, during which he well upheld the prestige established by his father in this vocation. In the meanwhile he had adopted Peru as his home and had identified himself closely with local interests. He retired from rail-

way service in May, 1895, to assume the office of county clerk of Miami county, to which position he had been elected, as candidate on the Democratic ticket, in the autumn of the preceding year. During his first term of four years he gave a most careful and efficient administration, and the popular approval of the same was manifested in his re-election, so that he served eight consecutive years, during which he made the county records models of systematic exactness and scrupulous attention to details.

Upon retiring from the office of county clerk Mr. Hughes assisted in the organization of the Wabash Valley Trust Company, of which bank he is still a director and of which he was treasurer nearly three years and in the developing of the excellent business of which he played an influential part. Since July, 1907, he has been engaged in the livery and transfer business, in which he is associated with his son-in-law, Louis S. Ward, under the firm name of Ward & Hughes. The firm has a large and well equipped establishment and controls a substantial and prosperous business, to the affairs of which Mr. Hughes gives the major part of his time and attention. For many years Mr. Hughes has served as a valued member of the directorate of the Citizens' National Bank of Peru and as its vice-president and also of that of the Peru Building & Loan Association, which has exerted potent influence in furthering the civic and material progress and upbuilding of the fine little city of Miami county. He has served as a member of the board of education of Peru since 1908 and is at this time president of the same. He has shown most vital interest in bringing the local schools up to a high standard and within his regime as president of the board has been erected the new high school building, which is conceded to be one of the finest in the state and the building of which was compassed without the least suspicion of graft or self-seeking on the part of the progressive board which had supervision of this important improvement.

Mr. Hughes is unwavering in his allegiance to the Democratic party and has been influential in its local councils and the manœuvering of its forces. Both he and his wife are zealous and valued members of the Presbyterian church in their home city, and he is a trustee of the same, besides which he was a member of the building committee under whose supervision was erected the present fine church edifice. Mr. Hughes is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity Lodge No. 67, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 52, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 365, and the Royal Arcanum Council No. 462.

On the 19th of May, 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hughes to Miss Mary E. Burnett, who was reared in Peru, and who is a daughter of the late Absalom Burnett, a representative citizen of Peru, and an old school teacher and soldier. The two children of this union are Frances May, wife of L. F. Ward, and Charles Burnett, of Peru.

**RICHARD A. EDWARDS.** A prominent and influential business man and progressive citizen of Peru, of Miami county. Mr. Edwards here **holds** the office of president of the First National Bank, with which institution he has been identified for more than thirty years and in the upbuilding of the substantial business of which he has wielded much influence, the while he has gained secure prestige as an able executive of broad views, impregnable integrity of purpose and most progressive policies. He is a man of fine intellectual attainments and prior to entering his present field of endeavor he had been a prominent and valued factor in educational work, as an able exponent of the pedagogic



profession, which likewise was signally dignified and honored by the character and services of his distinguished father. Mr. Edwards is essentially one of the strong and representative figures in connection with financial and general business activities in his home city and county, has impregnable vantage-place in popular confidence and esteem and is well entitled to specific recognition in this publication.

Richard Arthur Edwards was born at Bridgewater, Massachusetts, on the 9th of November, 1851, and is a scion of a family whose name became identified with the annals of New England in the colonial epoch of our national history. He is a son of Rev. Richard and Betsey (Josslyn) Edwards, and he was a child at the time of the family removal to the historic old town of Salem, Massachusetts, where the father held the position of president of the Massachusetts State Normal School until 1859, when he removed with his family to the City of St. Louis, Missouri, where he assumed the office of president of the St. Louis Normal School, for two years. He was then tendered advancement to the position of president of the Illinois State Normal University, at Normal, McLean county, an incumbency which he retained from 1861 to 1873, within which period he did splendid work in bringing this great institution up to a high standard both in the efficiency of its work and in gaining to the same a largely increased and appreciative support. He was a man of fine administrative ability and specially broad and liberal education, and his influence upon the youth who came within the sphere of his earnest activities has widened in beneficence through their worthy lives and achievements. He served as state superintendent of schools in Illinois for several years after his retirement from the presidency of the normal university and thereafter entered the ministry of the Congregational church, in which he found another broad field for the aiding and uplifting of his fellow men. He served for a number of years as pastor of the Congregational church at Princeton, Illinois, and the gracious twilight of his long and noble life was passed in retirement from active labors. He maintained his home at Bloomington, Illinois, until his death, which occurred on the 7th of March, 1908, and his name merits enduring place on the roll of those who have done a great work for humanity, his reputation as an educator and a clergyman being of the highest. He was a man of broad mental ken and well fortified opinions, and he ever manifested a loyal interest in all that touched the general welfare of the community, his political allegiance having been given to the Republican party.

Richard A. Edwards gained his rudimentary education in the public schools of St. Louis, Missouri, and Normal, Illinois, and was signally fortunate in having the environment and gracious associations of a home of distinctive culture and refinement,—relations that could not fail of benignant influence in the formative period of his character. He availed himself of the advantages of the Illinois State Normal University at the time when his honored father was its president, and at the age of eighteen years he initiated his practical pedagogic career, as a teacher in the public schools of Paxton, Illinois, where he held the position of principal of the schools. After devoting two years to successful work as a teacher he entered, in the year 1872, Dartmouth College, where he remained a student for one year, and later he was graduated as a member of the class of 1876 and from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. For two years after his graduation Mr. Edwards held the position of instructor in Greek and Latin in Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris, Illinois, an institution with which he had previously been connected in this capacity for a term of one year. Upon resigning this position, in 1878, he became professor

of English literature and rhetoric in Knox College, at Galesburg, Illinois, and continued as one of the valued and popular members of the faculty of this institution until 1881.

The year last mentioned marked the arrival of Mr. Edwards in Peru, Indiana, where he assumed the position of assistant cashier of the First National Bank. In 1884 he was advanced to the office of cashier, and of this position he continued the able and efficient incumbent until 1911, in January of which year he was elected to his present office, that of president, in which he has continued to direct the policies and operations of the bank with marked discrimination. He is conservative in his financial methods, has gained broad and accurate knowledge concerning real-estate values and general resources in his home county, and through his progressive business policies he has done much to make the First National Bank a power in the local industrial and business field.

Loyal and public-spirited as a citizen but never imbued with ambition for official perferment of political order, Mr. Edwards is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and he has given his co-operation in the furtherance of measures and enterprises that have conserved the industrial and commercial advancement of Peru, where he is president of the Peru Canning Company and also of the Clute & Butler Company, manufacturers of pianos, besides which he is a stockholder in various other industrial and commercial institutions in his home city. He and his wife are zealous members of the Baptist church and he holds membership in the Columbia Club in the city of Indianapolis, and the University Club of Chicago.

In the year 1880 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Edwards to Miss Alice Shirk, daughter of the late Elbert H. Shirk, who was at that time president of the First National Bank of Peru and who was long numbered among the most honored and influential citizens of Miami county. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have two sons and three daughters.

**BERNE WELCH.** One of the young men of Miami county, who have recently come into official prominence as a county officer, and now the occupant of the position of surveyor, Mr. Welch was reared in the city of Peru and as a young man depended largely upon his own resources to carry him forward in the world. One feature of his early career in this city was that for six years he was one of the boys who carried the *Peru Evening Journal*.

Berne Welch was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, September 19, 1888. He was one of four children, all of whom are now living, born to Robert R. and Mary E. (Patterson) Welch. The father, who was reared a farmer, for the past seventeen years has been engaged in railroad work, and since 1899 has been a resident of Peru. At the present time he is a freight conductor on the Wabash Railroad. The family moved to Peru in the fall of 1899, when his son Berne was eleven years of age. The latter had completed his education through the fourth grade in his native county, and from that time attended the public schools of Peru, where he was graduated from the high school in the spring of 1908. From leaving school until April, 1910, Mr. Welch was employed by the hardware firm of Charters, Brown & Company, at Peru. He then went out to the northwest, and received a thorough experience in engineering work in North Dakota in the employ of the Northern Pacific Railroad. After returning to Peru he soon became deputy county surveyor, and continued in that position until 1912, when during the regular fall election he was elected surveyor of Miami county, and is now officiating in that capacity. Mr. Welch is a Democrat in



politics and was elected on that ticket. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**HENRY A. EAGLE.** A citizen who spent most of his boyhood in Miami county and who in subsequent years by industry and thrift and public spirit has been a valued individual factor in the life of Peru, Mr. Eagle is best known in his home city as one of the proprietors of a large carriage and general repair shop, an industry with which his name has been identified for a period of thirty-five years. Henry A. Eagle was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1850, and spent the first fourteen years of his life in his home county. His father was Michael Eagle, who was a carriage maker by trade and the same vocation was followed by his father. Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, was the home and birthplace of several generations of the Eagle family. In that county Michael Eagle married Anna Shireman, and they became the parents of seven children, three of whom are now living. The mother died in 1860 and four years later, Michael Eagle married again and at once brought his family out to Miami county. He bought land in Richland township, and for the most part was engaged in farming until 1875, at which date he moved into Peru and lived retired from the cares of life from that time until his death, which occurred April 4, 1909. He and his wife were active members of the Catholic church.

Henry A. Eagle accompanied the family to Miami county in 1864, and with the exception of nine years spent chiefly in Indianapolis, this county has always been his home. He attained his education in the district schools of Pennsylvania and this county, attending only the customary three months of the winter with the summers spent in the work of the farm. During his early career he assisted his father in the clearing and the grubbing, planting and harvesting and knows by experience much of the hard labor and hardships of farm life forty or fifty years ago. When nineteen years of age he began learning the carriage maker's trade at Logansport, subsequently completing his apprenticeship at Indianapolis, where he remained eight years as a journey workman. In 1878 he returned to Peru and entered the employ of the old established firm of Sullivan and Graf. In February, 1879, a reorganization was made, and Mr. Eagle has since been associated in partnership with Mr. Sullivan, under the firm name of Sullivan & Eagle, a business title which has continued for a period of thirty-four years.

On April 22, 1879, Mr. Eagle married Miss Helen Worstell, of Covington, Kentucky. Mrs. Eagle died on June 3, 1906, the mother of five children: Gertrude, now Mrs. William Lynch of Peru; Blanch; Merion, who died at the age of fourteen; Nellie, who died at the age of nine; and Henry. Mr. Eagle is in politics a Democrat, but has never aspired to office, and has contributed his part to good government largely through his private industry and his neighborly qualities.

**CHARLES M. LONG.** Now living at his home in Richland township in his eighty-first year, Mr. Long has spent more than three-quarters of a century within the boundaries of Miami county, and possibly his recollections go back to an earlier stage of life in this county than any other man living at the present time. The Long family, including himself, has been one which has contributed to the substantial development and improvement of Miami county from the very earliest wilderness day until the present.

C. M. Long was born in Union county, Indiana, September 27, 1832, a son of John Long and a grandson of Frederick Long. The maiden

Abigail Long & Mr Long







name of his mother was Margaret Martindale, a daughter of Moses Martindale. On the paternal side the ancestry was German, although for four or five generations has been resident in America. The maternal ancestry is English.

The parents were married in Wayne county, Indiana, and came overland from Union county to Miami in 1836. The county at that time was completely covered with timber, and only a few clearings had been made in the forest for the cabin homes of the early settlers. There were a great many Indians still lingering within the county, and conditions continued primitive and of pioneer character for many years afterward. Railroads were not built until after Mr. Long had grown to manhood, and all travel was by river or canal or along the highways by team and wagon. Peru at the time of the Long settlement was known as Miamitown, and the principal source of supplies and the market center was at Michigan City, many miles to the north, and it required days for the settlers to go and come. The Martindale family came to Miami county at the same time as the Longs. E. B. Martindale, who for forty-eight years was connected with the *Indianapolis Journal*, and was its editor during the Civil war, was a cousin of Mr. Long's mother, and died at the age of eighty-one years, having been a very prominent man in public affairs.

C. M. Long remained at home until he was married. There were no schools whatever in the county, when the family first moved here, and C. M. Long was twelve years old before he attended his first school and that was taught in an old log school building. No money was spent on public education, and the era of free schools as known now was not ushered in until after Mr. Long was grown and married, and had a family of his own. After his marriage he located in an old log cabin on a farm across from the site of his present place. The land had been entered by his uncle, James Long. On that farm he introduced a great many laborious improvements, put up the buildings, and was also the builder of all the fine improvements that stand as evidence of his labor on his present estate. His father was proprietor of a small saw-mill, in which was manufactured all the lumber and timbers used in the construction of the family houses, and also for many others in this township. Mr. Long is now proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Richland township. He has comfort and conveniences in keeping with a career such as his has been, and well deserve the plenty in material things, and the esteem of his community. The Long family has been active in the Methodist church since it came to this county, and Mr. Long was the largest contributor to the church at Chili. His wife is a member of the Baptist church. In politics he is Republican as was his father before him. The last sixteen years of his life the father spent at the home of his son C. M. Long.

In 1855, in Miami county at Chili, Mr. Long married Miss Abigail Griswold, a daughter of Daniel and Amelia (Chandle) Griswold. Mrs. Long was born July 28, 1836. The nine children born to their union are noted as follows: Clara A., born August 7, 1856, died June 22, 1858; Flora M., born February 5, 1859, married Alonzo Cunningham; Judson A., born May 10, 1861, married Clara Smith; Effie A. born October 1, 1864, died January 3, 1880; Charles W., born May 22, 1866, married for his first wife Myrtie Brower, and for his second wife Sylvia Brower; Emma I., always called Ina, born October 4, 1868, married Nathan Fouts, who was instantly killed while driving over the railroad tracks on September 11, 1901; Mrs. Fouts, who was married to Mr. Fouts on January 22, 1890, now has her home with Mr. and Mrs. Long. Foster L., born April 29, 1872, married Rutta Fisher. Uly C., born



October 27, 1874, married Rose Warner; Chester W., born March 10, 1877, married Elby Murphy.

THOMAS KEYES, ISAAC KEYES, THOMAS A. KEYES. Three generations of productive industry and citizenship have been represented in Miami county by the Keyes family. As farmers, soldiers, when their countries called them, and as men of strict integrity and morality in their own communities, they quietly but effectively have contributed to the substantial welfare of this county.

Thomas Keyes, the head of the first generation and the founder of the family name and fortunes in Miami county, came to this locality with his family in 1846, and was thus one of the pioneers who aided during the primitive period of this county. His former home was in Pickaway county, Ohio. Thomas Keyes was a splendid example of the quality and upright character of the early settlers. He entered land in Butler township from the government, his location being on what was then known as the Miami Indiana Reservation. Moving into a cabin home, he began clearing and improving the property, and in time acquired a comfortable home and all the evidences of material prosperity. For his generation Thomas Keyes was a man of superior education, and his influence as an individual was a quality of high value for the promotion of religion, morality and education in this vicinity. During the Civil war he vigorously advocated the preservation of the Union and the abolition of the institution of slavery. Ill health prevented his going in person to the front, but it was his pleasure to see two of his sons put on the uniform of their country and give loyal service in its behalf. These soldier sons were Thaddeus, a member of the Eighty-Seventh Indiana Infantry, and William H., who served in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Indiana Infantry. Thomas Keyes spent the last years of his life much broken in health and died in 1873. He was an active member of the Methodist church. He was twice married and his first wife was Jeanette Barker, who was the mother of two sons. His second wife was Mrs. Elizabeth (Oman) Jester, who at the time of her marriage with Mr. Keyes had one daughter. By her marriage to Mr. Keyes she became the mother of ten children.

Isaac Keyes, who was the oldest of the children of Thomas Keyes, was born on the farm occupied by his parents near Circleville, Ohio. When he was about ten years of age he was brought to Miami county, and his education began in the pioneer schools of Ohio, where he continued as far as the primitive education of this locality would allow. As a boy some of his early experiences were in helping to clear, grub, plant and harvest the acres which had been hard won from the wilderness, by himself, and his father and brothers. Throughout his own career he occupied his time in agriculture. He married Julia Fausler, who became the mother of five sons and two daughters, all of whom are now living except one son, William, who died in infancy. The life of Isaac Keyes had in it that even quality and absence from abnormal eventfulness which are the best manifestations of a happy and useful career. He was noted for his untiring industry, and by his efforts he acquired a quarter section of valuable land and other property, so that his own life was well fortified with material prosperity and he provided well for his family. The characteristic most remembered was his intense devotion to his home and his happiest hours were spent in the companionship of his wife and children. In politics he was a Republican, but while always giving firm adherence to his political convictions he was never a partisan, and allowed others the same right he reserved for himself of thinking and acting according to the dictates of

conscience. For many years he was actively identified with the Methodist church in his community, the services of this church being held at the Keyes schoolhouse in Butler township. Commanding the esteem and affection of a large circle of friends, he passed away in September, 1885, and his wife's death had occurred some time before.

Thomas A. Keyes, who is now prominent in the business and industrial circles of Peru, was born in Butler township this county, October 27, 1862. His primary education was attained in the district schools in the old Keyes school house which stood near his home. Subsequently he supplemented this early instruction by private study under tutors, so that he had finally procured the equivalent of a sophomore university education. When he was nineteen years of age he began teaching school, and continued this occupation for eight winter terms, spending the intervening summer months at farming. At the end of this time he had acquired sufficient resources for the purpose of a forty-acre farm in his native township, and thus established an independent home of his own. After three years as a farmer, he engaged in mercantile business at Amboy, in partnership with W. P. Miller. After that enterprise he came to Peru, and took a place as clerk with the Peru Basket Company. Four years later, he was advanced to the place of superintendent, and since 1909 has been part owner and general manager of this important establishment.

Mr. Keyes is in politics a Republican, and is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons. On May 22, 1885, he married Miss Ida B. Johnson, a daughter of James L. and Mary A. (Way) Johnson. Of the three children of their marriage, the first two died in infancy, and the only survivor is Earl Everett. The son is now pursuing a post-graduate course in the University of Indiana at Bloomington, where he is also instructor of public speaking. He is a very talented young man, and spent one year of his collegiate life at Harvard University. Mr. and Mrs. Keyes are both members of the Presbyterian church of Peru.

DAVID RIDENOUR, M. D. From 1868 until his death in 1900, a resident and a physician at Chili in Miami county, the life of the late Dr. David Ridenour was a benefit and an inspiration to the people of his community, and the memory of his services deserve lasting recognition in the annals of this county. His work among the people of the community in which he had been a familiar figure for so long was of an order imminently calculated to win him the respect and love of all, and in those qualities his life was richly endowed.

Dr. David Ridenour was born in Franklin county, Ohio, March 7, 1831, a son of George and Mary Ridenour. As a young man he entered Capital University from which he graduated with honors with a view to preparing himself for the ministry of the Lutheran church. But he soon found that his inclinations lay in the direction of medicine, and he accordingly attended the Starling Medical College, from which he also graduated. He practiced for a time at Aetna in Licking county, Ohio. In 1856 moving to Payson, Illinois, he there met and married Miss Susan Fisher. Mrs. Ridenour died in the fall of 1857, leaving one daughter, Emma. Dr. Ridenour returned to his native village in Ohio, and re-entered the Starling Medical College, where he was graduated M. D. in 1858. In the meantime, however, during the Civil war period he had enlisted for the preservation of the Union in Company F of the One Hundred and Thirty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned second assistant surgeon of the regiment, serving as such until peace was declared.

On May 15, 1861, he married Abigail Y. Kitsmiller, and then con-



tinued his practice in Ohio until 1868, at which date he moved to Inwood, Indiana, but in July of the same year to Chili in Miami county, where he continued in the active practice of his profession until his death.

The late Dr. Ridenour was a man of decided opinions and strong force of character. He joined the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, contrary to the tenets of the religion of his parents, and was ever afterwards a strong advocate of the doctrines of that organization. He was a charter member of the lodge at Chili. He was held in high esteem by the members of his profession, and his memory is undimmed in the affections of those with whom he came in contact either as a friend or as a physician. At the time of his death he was a member of the Methodist church. To his second marriage three children were born, namely: William L., David C., and Daisy L., the last being the wife of Benjamin F. Williams. The oldest child, William L., died in 1885.

DR. DAVID C. RIDENOUR, the only surviving son of the late Dr. David Ridenour, was born at Chili in Richland township August 25, 1868. After attendance and graduation at the graded schools of Chili, when nineteen years of age he began his career as a teacher, an occupation which he followed until 1890. During the last two years of this time, however, he had been reading medicine under the direction of his father. Then in September, 1890, he entered the Starling Medical College at Columbus, Ohio. During the succeeding vacation period, he again studied and accompanied his father on his rounds, and on March 3, 1892, was graduated with his medical degree from the Starling Medical College, and under Prof. Starling Loving, who was the professor of his father in 1858. Dr. Ridenour practiced then in association with his father at Chili until December, 1893, at which date he was appointed resident surgeon at the Wabash Railway Hospital in Peru. His practice in that connection continued with several interruptions for a year and a half, and he then located at Columbus, Ohio, but finally through the persuasion of his family, he returned to Miami county and established his office at Peru in October, 1896. He has since enjoyed a distinctive place in the medical fraternity of this city and of the county.

In connection with his profession Dr. Ridenour has given much public spirited service. In 1897-1900 he served as secretary of the board of health of Peru. He has also served as a clerk to the board of pension examiners, since 1906. In 1904 he was elected to the office of coroner of Miami county, and has the distinction of being the only Republican ever elected to that office. He has held membership in the County Medical Society and other professional bodies. He was made a Master Mason in 1897, and was one of the organizers of the old social order known as the Sexennial League. He and his wife attend the Methodist church. On October 18, 1899, Dr. Ridenour married Beatrice V., a daughter of John B. Sollitt, one of the oldest and best known families of Peru. They are the parents of one daughter, Elizabeth Abigal, born February 29, 1904.

MICHAEL P. COSTIN. A solid business enterprise of Peru is the Peru Teaming Company, which has an interesting history of its own, and which illustrates the progressive and hard working career of one of the leading citizens. Something more than twenty years ago Mr. Costin came to this city a man without influence, without capital, and established a draying business on a very small scale. It was from that small beginning that, entirely through his own persistent industries, has been built up the present prosperous and extensive establishment comprised under the name of the Peru Teaming Company.







“POINT VIEW STOCK FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES J. WARD



Michael P. Costin was born at Willow Springs in Cook County, Illinois, on April 25, 1862. The oldest of the family, and bearing his father's name, he was a member of a household comprising eight children, five of whom are now living. Their parents were Michael P. and Mary (Mallon) Costin, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The father was born in County Waterford and the mother in County Tyrone. The destinies of life caused them both to leave Ireland and locate in Cook County, Illinois, where they became acquainted and their marriage followed, being celebrated in Lockport, Illinois. The father was a farmer, and both parents are now deceased.

As a boy Michael P. Costin attended the district schools as opportunity offered and his total attendance was for only a year or so. As soon as old enough he began working to contribute for his own and the family welfare, and when fifteen years of age left home and began employment with an ice company. Subsequently he became a driver in the employ of the Arthur Dixon Teaming Company, and for General Joseph Stockton in Chicago. About 1889, he bought a couple of outfits and began teaming for a furniture company. After eighteen months in this he sold his equipment and once more entered the employ of the Dixon Company as a driver.

Mr. Costin's wife had relatives in Peru and it was this influence which brought him to this city in November, 1892. For a few months he was clerk in the Betzner Grocery Store, and then for a time drove a delivery wagon for Hugh McCaffrey. In July, 1893, he bought a team and a dray and started out on independent venture. For many months his fight for success was a hard one. He was a comparative stranger in Peru and also had considerable competition to overcome. Furthermore he had very little capital at his disposal and among other troubles which beset the beginning of his enterprise was the financial panic, which almost stifled business during the early nineties. It is probable that his subsequent success rested largely upon his willingness to undertake any job no matter how dirty or difficult, and it was his motto in those days to do whatever came to him according to the best of his ability. In this way he gradually built up a steady and reliable patronage and many years ago was on the road to solid prosperity. In September, 1900, he moved his headquarters to his present place of business on Broadway and in January, 1903, John Tomey became a partner by the purchase of a half interest in the firm. At this time the establishment took the name of the Peru Teaming Company, and that business has been regarded as one of the flourishing concerns of the city ever since. Mr. Costin in January, 1913, extended his enterprise when he became a partner in the new undertaking firm of Crawford, Costin & Company, this organization succeeding the old Crawford, Drake & Hunt Company.

Mr. Costin is in politics a Democrat, and he and his family are communicants of the Catholic church. On October 17, 1888, he married Miss Sadie Mackey. The ten children who have blessed their union are named as follows: Margaret, deceased; Cecelia; James; Genevieve; Gerald, deceased; Richard; Joseph; Dorothy; Maurice and Roslyn.

CHARLES J. WARD. For a period upwards of half a century, Mr. Ward has been closely identified with those activities which constitute the business and civic life of a community, and which in the aggregate has made Miami county one of the most progressive counties in the state. Mr. Ward is at the present time one of the county commissioners, and his election to that office is a tribute to the substantial character of his citizenship, and the place which he has so long held in the esteem of



his community. Mr. Ward is a native son of Richland township, and has been identified with the farming interests of that locality, throughout the greater part of his life..

C. J. Ward was born northwest of the village of Chili in Richland township, May 30, 1848, a son of William and a grandson of Daniel Ward. His mother was Grace Ann Hill, a daughter of Willis Hill. Grandfather Daniel Ward was one of the pioneers of Miami county, having located here about 1836, upon a tract of land in the wilderness northwest of the present town of Chili. In the list of original land entries in Miami county, as contained on file in the state offices will be found the name of Daniel Ward as an entrant, and he went to the land office at Logansport to file his claim. Daniel Ward was a native of Maryland, after growing up, having moved west and located first in Wayne county, Indiana, where his son, William was born. When the Ward family came to Miami county, hardly half a dozen years had passed since the first settlement and organization of a county, and the entire country was a wilderness. The Canal had not yet been built in the Wabash Valley, and all traffic was overland. Daniel Ward was one of the men who sturdily wielded his ax in the clearing of the forest, and he built one of the log cabins which have so often been described as typical of pioneer existence. He remained in this county until he was sixty-five years of age, then going to Wabash county and buying a farm. He spent his declining years with his son John in Wabash, Indiana, and was interred at Laketon, Indiana.

William Ward the father was a young man when he came to Miami county, and started his independent career on a rented farm. Afterwards he bought eighty acres of the timberland, and built a log cabin and barn, cleared away a portion of the heavy woods, and in a few years had constituted himself and family a good homestead. He was one of the old-timers of Miami county, who were faithful attendants of church, believed in doing what was right by himself and his neighbors, and worthily bore the responsibilities of private and public nature. He and his wife were members of the Christian church.

Mr. J. C. Ward, after the death of his father, enlarged the old home place, and continued to live there for one year after his marriage. Then in 1874 he built the home which he now occupies. When he started out for himself he had twenty acres of land, and with that as a nucleus has built up a fine property, so that he is now accorded recognition as one of the most substantial men in Richland township. He possesses three farms aggregating one hundred and eighty-one acres. Mr. Ward is not a member of any church, though his wife is a Baptist. He believes in the practice of the Golden Rule, and by his strict integrity has made a great many friends. He is influential in local affairs, and was the organizer of the horse thief association in his locality, of which association he has been a member for forty years. In 1909 he was elected to the office of county commissioner, taking office in 1910, and has been a member of the board down to the present time.

In 1873 Mr. Ward married Miss Sarah Hersey, a daughter of Abner Hersey. The five children of their marriage were: Emma J., wife of Charles Black; Grace A., wife of Peter Pottinger; Truman H., married Edna Kelsey; Homer W., married June Murphy; and Miss Ruth. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Ward married Laura Miller, a daughter of Rev. Samuel Miller. For his third wife Mr. Ward married Emma Cunningham, daughter of William Cunningham, and Eliza (Williams) Cunningham. To the third marriage has been born one child, Ralph W. Ward. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Ward is known as "Point View Stock Farm."

MOSES PUTERBAUGH AND ELI PUTERBAUGH. It is now more than three-score and ten years since the Puterbaugh family was established in the valley of the Wabash. The head of the preceding generation was a pioneer, a man whose industry was a contributing factor in the clearing of the wilderness, and making of prosperous homes in this vicinity. Of the second generation the two brothers named above have for more than forty years been identified with the mercantile activities of Peru, and among the honored old-time merchants and citizens of this city.

Moses Puterbaugh, the elder of these brothers, was born on a farm seven miles west of Peru, in Cass county, August 24, 1843. His father was Samuel Puterbaugh, a native of Miami county, Ohio, where he was reared and where he married Elizabeth Branson. He and his wife coming overland in 1840, located upon land which he entered from the government in Tipton township of Cass county, his homestead bordering upon the Miami county lines. It was there that he made his home and followed farming for the most part during the remainder of his days. This founder of the Puterbaugh family was a man of medium height and weight, was a thrifty, hard-working and economical citizen, belonged to the German Baptist faith, and was a Republican in politics, after the founding of that political party. Throughout the community in which he spent so many years his chief characteristic was that of sterling honesty and a quiet unassuming nature which brought him friends and esteem though he never had any desire to take conspicuous part in civic or social affairs. He and his wife became the parents of thirteen children, seven of whom are now living. Samuel Puterbaugh died in 1872, and his wife had passed away many years before in 1868.

Moses Puterbaugh, who was born on the Cass county homestead three years after his father had settled there, spent his boyhood days there and had arrived at sufficient age to assist in a part of the clearing and other work involved in the development of the land. While he attended the neighboring district log school house as occasion offered, he spent much of his time in his youth in the planting and harvesting and other labors incidental to early farming in Miami and Cass counties. He finished his education in the schools of Kokomo, Peru and Logansport, and finally took a course at Greer's Business College in Dayton, Ohio. His regular position in life was that of teacher, and he taught several terms of school in Cass, Miami and Pulaski counties. At different times he also conducted private classes in penmanship.

The date of his arrival in Peru to become an active factor in local business circles was in April, 1870, at which time he became associated with James M. Stutesman and his brother Eli Puterbaugh in the hardware business. Through ten years this association continued and then was succeeded by the firm of Puterbaugh Brothers, who continued the business until 1903, when it was sold to Betzner Brothers. In the meantime Mr. Puterbaugh had acquired a generous prosperity and had many investments in this locality, which has since occupied his time and attention. Mr. Puterbaugh is a Republican in politics, is a member of the Presbyterian church, and on August 16, 1875, married Miss Caroline Crowell of Peru.

Mr. Eli Puterbaugh, brother of Moses, was born in Cass county, Indiana, February 14, 1845, being two years his brother's junior. He has always been associated with his brother in business, and their careers have been as nearly identical as possible. He attained his education in the same schools, and after leaving school also taught penmanship and regular school. He came, as already noted, to Peru in 1870, and engaged in the hardware business and retired at the same date in order to look after his other interests. Mr. Puterbaugh married Isabel Nicol and



has one daughter. Mrs. Puterbaugh was born in Illinois, Rock Island county, was educated in common and high schools, and at the age of sixteen years began teaching school. In 1865 she came to Peru to attend the high schools and later taught one term in district schools. She next taught one year in Logansport, and then came to Peru where she taught in the public and high schools for 18 years.

**ANNA MARY ELIZABETH BETSNER.** The biographical annals of Miami county contain the careers of many successful men in business and public affairs. In most cases it is distinctly stated or implied that these successful business men have been greatly influenced and helped on their road to success by their mothers or wives. It will be of interest at this point to touch more particularly upon the career of one woman, who is deserving of more than passing mention in the history of commercial successes of Peru and the county. With this brief introduction a large number of Peru residents would recognize that reference was being made to Mrs. Anna Mary Elizabeth Betsner, who for forty-six years has been a resident of this city. Born April 21, 1841, at Glandorf, Province of Hanover, Germany, she is a daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Englemeyer) Hamer, both of whom died in that country. She was reared to womanhood in the land of her nativity, and having a brother living in this country at Cincinnati, Ohio, she came to America in May 1866, and with her brother's family, shortly after her arrival, moved to Dayton, Ohio, where she found employment in the family of William Kransman. In September, 1866, she came with the Kransman family to Peru, and here on January 27, 1867, she married Jacob Betsner, who was at the time a widower with two children.

Mr. Betsner was born May 6, 1834, at Loerst, Province of Darmstadt, Germany, and came with his mother to the United States about the same year of his birth, locating on a farm on Washington township, Miami county. His mother here married a Mr. Beck. When a young man Mr. Betsner became a blacksmith's helper in the employ of the old Indianapolis, Peru & Chicago Railroad. In the fall of 1869, however, soon after his marriage to Miss Hamer, and due to her influence, as will be mentioned later, he embarked in the grocery business in Peru. With the exception of the years from 1884 to 1888 he continued that line of trade throughout the remainder of his life. He was a Catholic and a Democrat, and having a genial temperament made friends easily and had a large circle throughout his career. He died July 16, 1900. Mr. Betsner was three times married. His first wife was Mary Ann Kompert, who bore him two children, namely: John A., now a grocer at Dayton, Ohio; and Elizabeth, wife of John Fitzgerald of Chicago. No children were born to his second marriage, the maiden name of that wife being Elizabeth Weinreder. To his marriage with Miss Hamer, four children have been born as follows: Mary B., now Sister Rose Cecile, who is in the Convent of the Sisters of Providence near Terre Haute; Barbara M.; Jacob J., and Joseph F. The family are all of the Catholic religion.

Mrs. Betsner, whose name forms the subject of this sketch, occupies a singular place in the commercial annals of Peru. Mr. Betsner at the time of her marriage to him, was sadly in debt. Mrs. Betsner could not rest under the odium of debt, and accordingly took in washing, did scrubbing and worked at any honest labor, no matter how menial to cancel this obligation. Eventually this was accomplished. It was her energetic mind that counseled Mr. Betsner to go into the grocery business and it was largely through her help and keen business instincts that made the humble beginning such a pronounced success. Through her management she had become one of the largest individual tax payers

in Miami county. In the fall of 1869, Mrs. Betsner started in the grocery business in Peru, Indiana, at 115 South Broadway, and she lived then over the store. She purchased the store at what is now known as 12 South Broadway, on July 10, 1871, moving there in May, 1873, and she continued business there till 1884. In 1884 she retired from the grocery business, but on the 5th of May, 1888, opened the present store at 57 W. Main street, where she and her children are now located. The Main street property was purchased on November 3, 1876, and in 1884 they built the store adjoining. Mrs. Bestner and her children are recognized as one of the best and most substantial families of Peru.

DAVID E. RHODES. As an active and successful attorney Mr. Rhodes during the past eighteen years has occupied a prominent place in his profession in Miami county, and has had a varied and broad experience as a lawyer in all departments of practice. The present firm of Lawrence & Rhodes, of which he is the junior member is recognized as one of the strongest law partnerships in active practice at Peru, and has enjoyed a large and influential clientage.

David E. Rhodes is a native of this state, born on a farm in Fulton county, August 17, 1869, a son of Joseph P. and Alma (Hoover) Rhodes. Both sides of the family have long been identified with Indiana, and the mother's people in particular were among the pioneers of this state. Joseph P. Rhodes, the father, was a farmer by occupation and during the war enlisted in Company A of the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Indiana Infantry, giving loyal service as a soldier for the preservation of the Union. Both parents are now deceased. Mr. Rhodes spent his boyhood on a farm where he acquired the physical vigor necessary to success in any department of life, and obtained his education in the district school near the old home. When he was seventeen years of age he took one course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. With that preparation he took up work as teacher and spent the winter terms in teaching, and engaged in farming during the summer until he was twenty years of age. At that time he had acquired sufficient capital to continue his education, and another year was spent in the Valparaiso institution. After that he continued alternately in farming and teaching until he was twenty-three. Then he again entered the Northern Indiana Normal School and at the end of two years and a half had completed the scientific and teachers' courses, and in June, 1895, was graduated from the law department. In August of the same year he began his practice at Peru, at first as a member of the law firm of Larimer & Rhodes. This partnership was dissolved in 1897, and Mr. Rhodes then remained by himself until 1901, at which time the present firm of Lawrence & Rhodes was organized.

Mr. Rhodes is one of the broad-minded men of his profession and has for many years been a keen student of local and national politics. Up until 1912 he was actively identified with the Republican party in both principles and policies. The belief was then forced upon him as a positive conviction that the party was dominated by a group of eastern leaders whose general tendencies were essentially retrogressive, and after the memorable proceedings in the Republican Convention at Chicago, he transferred his political allegiance to the new Progressive faction and was one of the organizers of the Progressive party in Indiana. He was chairman of the Progressive Organization for Miami county.

On Christmas Day of 1895, Mr. Rhodes married Miss Edith Rooney of Athens in Fulton county, Indiana, and they are the parents of two sons, Russell R. and Teddy D.



ELMER E. MITCHELL. In writing the commercial history of Peru it is of interest to note that many of the men who are now regarded as the most successful and substantial merchants began their careers at the bottom, some as clerks, some as common laborers and in various other capacities, which afforded each one an entrance to which he might progress to higher achievements in business life. One of these present-day successful merchants is Elmer E. Mitchell, who for more than thirty years has been identified with the business district of Peru, and is now at the head of a large baking establishment.

Mr. Mitchell was born at Lewisburg in Cass county on January 20, 1864. He was one of three children, all of whom are still living, whose parents were Edward and Victoria (Fields) Mitchell. His father, a carpenter by trade, during the latter part of his life devoted much of his time to farming. In 1866 the family moved to Miami county, Ohio, where the father died during the same year, and in 1875 the remaining members of the family returned to Cass county, Indiana.

Mr. Mitchell was reared for the most part on a farm, and owing to the early death of his father and to the requirements that each member of the household should do something to contribute to the general support, he was early thrown largely on his own responsibilities, and as a result his education was only such as could be obtained in the common schools. When he was about seventeen years of age he began life's battle on his own responsibility as a clerk in Dubb's bakery at Peru. This was in 1882 and the beginning of his long connection with mercantile affairs of this city. After about a year as a clerk, during which time he had acquired a thorough familiarity with the business side of baking, he went into the bake shop and learned with equal thoroughness the baker's trade. About 1895 he had progressed so far as to open a shop for himself at 107 South Broadway. Mr. E. M. Lang was associated with him in this enterprise. After a time he sold out and then returned again to work at wages. His next venture in the Peru mercantile field was in opening a store at 54 South Broadway, his partner being Max Soatebier. Since 1899 Mr. Mitchell has been sole proprietor of his business and at the present time operates two establishments; the one at 54 South Broadway is largely devoted to the manufacture of bread, and the one at 11 West Second street is where the pastry is made. Mr. Mitchell has built up a large sale for his products, which have a standard reputation over a large section of this part of Indiana, and his wares are distributed in Peru and many adjoining localities.

Mr. Mitchell is in politics a Republican and is affiliated with the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias, the Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Knights of the Maccabees, and the Moose. He was married in 1885 to Miss Lillie M. King of Peru. They became the parents of four children, namely: Two that died in infancy; and Eldon E. and Mary Gladys.

JOHN B. PHILAPY. When John B. Philapy reached his legal majority, he withdrew from the farm home and turned his attention to the lumber industry, in which he has ever since been successfully engaged. He is now reckoned among the successful and prosperous business men of Bunker Hill, with which he became identified in 1900 as manager of the Bunker Hill Lumber Company, and it may be said to his credit as the incumbent of that position that the business of the concern is four-fold what it was in 1900, no inconsiderable increase, and one that has resulted chiefly from his management and progressive ideas.

Mr. Philapy was born in Cass county, in Galveston, Indiana, on May 7, 1879, and is the son of James Henry and Emma A. (Fox) Philapy.



JOHN B. PHILAPY FAMILY GROUP





His paternal and maternal grandsires were Willard Philapy and Jacob Fox, worthy men of their time. James Henry Philapy settled in Cass county in 1868, or thereabouts, and continued to make that place his home during the remainder of his life.

Up to his twenty-first birthday, John B. Philapy remained at home, and at that age started in the lumber business. He was first identified thus in Galveston, but in the same year came to Bunker Hill where he took over the management of the Bunker Hill Lumber Company, and he has held that position continuously since that time. With the passing years he has made a steady advance in his knowledge of lumber and conditions controlling and touching upon the market, so that he is one of the well posted men of the county on lumber questions today. Under his management the business of which he is in control has doubled, trebled and quadrupled in the past ten years, and many important changes have come to pass in the management of the plant. The location of the plant has been changed and all the buildings are new, while the lumber yard is continually increasing its capacity and output. It is known to be one of the most complete and up-to-date yards in this section of the state at the present time, and the company is a factor that must be reckoned with when matters pertaining to their field come up for consideration.

Mr. Philapy is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Bunker Hill Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and the Chapter at Peru; the Knights of Pythias of Bunker Hill, Lodge No. 299, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and as to his political connections, he is a Republican, and he has served as councilman of Bunker Hill during two terms.

Mr. Philapy was married on December 28, 1904, to Miss Dottie L. Ross, the daughter of Robert H. Ross and Johanna I. (Shaffer) Ross. Four children have been born to them: Russell Ross, born February 1, 1906; Josephine Marian, born October 7, 1907; Robert Raymond, born February 2, 1909, and James Edgar, born February 16, 1910. Robert died at the age of two years.

**SOLOMON A. MELCHER.** In the Peru shopping district one of the establishments which come in for special recognition is the wholesale house of Solomon A. Melcher, who is engaged in the wholesale cigar, tobacco, and confectionery business. Mr. Melcher was for a number of years identified with the cigar manufacturing business in this city, and several years ago established his present business which he has built up to large and successful proportions.

Solomon A. Melcher was born in the city of Peru, September 2, 1868. As a boy in this city he attended the public schools and when still several years from his majority began an apprenticeship at the cigar making trade. When he was twenty years of age he had become so expert and was possessed of sufficient initiative to open a shop of his own for the manufacture of cigars. This shop was located on the second floor of the Ream Block on East Main Street. He continued manufacturing there until 1909, at which time he established his present business of wholesaling smokers' articles and confectionery. The confectionery branch of the business was added in 1912. As a private citizen Mr. Melcher has in a quiet way identified himself with all the commercial prosperity and public-spirited movements of Peru during the last few years, and is a man whose support can be counted upon for the advancement of every undertaking in behalf of the general welfare.

In politics he is a Democrat, and is affiliated with the Masonic



order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Order of Elks, besides several local minor organizations.

At Peru on January 27, 1893, he married Miss Catherine Jordan. They are the parents of two children: Rosa, now deceased, and Florence. Miss Florence Melcher became a member of the Presbyterian church on the fiftieth anniversary of its organization, thus representing the third generation of the family in this old church, her grandmother having been one of the organizers of the church society back in pioneer times. Mr. Melcher is one of the large family of children whose parents were John and Lydia (Holman) Melcher. Both parents are still living in Peru, and his father is at present time assessor for Peru township.

**TIMOTHY E. DUNN.** Few men now in middle age are able to look back upon a career as full of ups and downs and severe struggles with chance and circumstance as can Timothy E. Dunn, presently city clerk of Peru. Mr. Dunn has resided in Peru for the greater part of the last quarter of a century, and throughout this time has grown in the respect and esteem of the community.

Timothy E. Dunn was born at Fitchburg, Massachusetts, April 2, 1866, a son of Timothy C. and Honora (Reardon) Dunn, the parents were born and were married in Ireland, and came to America in 1852, locating first at Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where the father was connected for a time with the Fitchburg Paper Company. Subsequently he engaged in manufacturing wiping waste. His death occurred in Fitchburg a few years ago, and the mother of Timothy passed away when he was a boy.

Timothy E. Dunn had the advantage of a high school education at Fitchburg and graduated from the local schools before he took up the practical work of life. He then began work for his father and was employed in various capacities and at different places until he was twenty-one years of age. In March, 1887, he first came to Peru, in which city he made his home with his aunt, Mrs. Daniel Maloney. He became agent for the United States Express Company, next was a clerk in a grocery, and then was appointed freight agent for the Lake Erie & Western R. R. at Kokomo, after which he was connected with various positions in railroad service, both in Peru and elsewhere. In 1901 he became barn foreman for Louis Ward in the livery business, and remained with Mr. Ward until June, 1907. At that time he was appointed superintendent of the Peru Water Works, and managed that municipal utility until January, 1910. At the latter date began his service as city clerk, an office to which he had been elected in 1909, and he has held this important place in the municipal government down to the present time.

The preceding is but a brief outline of Mr. Dunn's career. His mother died when he was a small boy, and as he was unable to get along agreeably with his step-mother, he began drifting around in various places and working at various occupations when only a boy, and since then has had a range of experiences such as the average man seldom knows. In politics he is a Democrat and is a member of the Catholic church.

**JOHN B. SOLLITT, ELMER A. SOLLITT, RALPH V. SOLLITT.** For more than a quarter of a century the Sollitt family have been identified by residence with Peru, and by the varied distinctions and achievements of its members has conferred much credit upon local citizenship. The name is well known in railway circles, the Wabash System having obtained two of its most trusted and efficient officials from this family, and the

youngest representative of the name is now a rising young lawyer of Peru.

John B. Sollitt, the head of the family, has for twenty-six years been a resident of Peru, and during the same length of time has been connected with the Wabash System as special agent. He was born in Sheffield, England, on September 9, 1843, and received his father's name. The maiden name of the mother was Hannah Dodd. The senior John B. Sollitt with wife and family came to America in 1849, first locating at Chicago, where he worked for a time at the butcher's trade, and subsequently moving to Will county, Illinois, in 1855. In Will county, where he and his wife passed the greater part of their remaining years, he became very prominent as a citizen, and was successful as a farmer and stock raiser. In many ways he was a remarkable man and possessed unusual force of character and variety of accomplishments. During the Civil war and the years preceding the conflict he was one of the most pronounced abolitionists in his community. In the annals of the old "underground" railway his home is mentioned as one of the stations, where slaves brought under cover of night and by friendly stealth from the southern borders of slavery, were concealed during the day or during the vigilance of slave-hunting officials and were then started out again upon their journeys to the borders of Canada and freedom. In politics he was a Republican, though he differed with the fundamental principles of the party on the doctrine of free trade. At one time he served as chairman of the board of supervisors of Will county, and in Masonry attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish rite.

John B. Sollitt was six years of age when the family came to America and began his education in the public schools of Chicago, but after the age of eleven, at which time the family removed to Will county, he spent most of his time in assisting in the work of the home farm and had few additional advantages at school. On February 26, 1868 he married Miss Jennie E. Sollitt. After that he established a home for himself and engaged in farming until 1878. In the meantime he had taken an active interest in politics, and served in several local offices and also as county supervisor. After removing to Joliet he was appointed deputy sheriff, and for several years continued to act in that capacity. During the last thirty years his career has been extended into a broad field of service. About 1883 he went into the southwest and became manager of a large ranch and forage station, situated between Fort Apache and Holbrook in Arizona. He continued there for three years, and it was during that time that the last great Indian war of the southwest occurred, during the uprising of the famous Indian Geronimo. From the southwest he came to Peru, his locating here following his appointment as special railroad agent for the Wabash Railroad, and he has now given a long period of efficient service to the road in that capacity.

In politics Mr. Sollitt is a Republican, and has taken the Knights Templar degrees of Masonry. The seven children born to himself and wife are as follows: Jessie B., deceased; Della E., deceased; Elmer A.; Beatrice V., now the wife of Dr. D. C. Ridenour; Mabel L., deceased; Florence W., deceased, and Ralph V. Elmer A. Sollitt, the oldest son, was born in Will county, Illinois, January 20, 1874, but spent most of his boyhood and began his career in Peru. It is a matter of pride to Peru that it has produced so eminent a man in the railroad field. Most of his schooling was obtained in the public schools of Peru, and when he began his career it was as office boy in the office of the Division Superintendent of the Wabash Railroad in this city. His



various promotions marked the rapid rise of a successful railroad man. He became locomotive fireman, then engineer and at the time was the youngest engineer on the Wabash System. After this he next became the youngest traveling engineer and fuel inspector for the road, and next was promoted to train-master of the Moberly Division. He held a similar position at Decatur, Illinois, then became assistant superintendent of the Detroit Division with headquarters at Montpelier, Ohio. His last promotion was as acting superintendent of the Buffalo and Detroit Divisions with headquarters at Detroit, a position in which he now gives his service to his road. Mr. Elmer A. Sollitt married Miss Minnie J., a daughter of Solomon L. Shively of Peru.

Ralph V. Sollitt, youngest of the children of John B. Sollitt was born in Peru, April 3, 1888. He was reared in this city and was graduated from the high school in 1906. His early talents having indicated his aptitude for professional life, he continued his education in the Indiana State University at Bloomington where he was graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1910, and after completing his law course was graduated LL. B. from the same institution in 1911. In September of the latter year, having been admitted to the Indiana bar, he was taken in as a partner of Robert J. Loveland, one of the oldest and ablest lawyers of Peru. The firm is now Loveland & Sollitt and Mr. Sollitt has gained an early distinction in the Miami county bar. In politics he is a Republican. He began making political speeches for the Republican party in 1904 and in the campaign of 1910 made an extensive tour of the state. While at college he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and the Phi Delta Phi honorary fraternities. During the last three years of his work at University, he served as instructor in charge of the department of public speaking, being the youngest man who was ever given this responsibility in the state university.

DAVID IRWIN. The head of the old established real estate and insurance firm of David Irwin & Company. Mr. Irwin has been identified with Peru in a successful and public spirited manner for many years, and represents one of the old pioneer families of this locality. Mr. Irwin is one of the men who can look back upon a boyhood during which they began to rely upon their own efforts for advancement, and from a time when his wages per day amounted to only a few cents until he gained his first real start in life, Mr. Irwin encountered courageously many obstacles and hardships in his career.

His father, Hezekiah Irwin came to Miami county in 1845 from Huntington county, Pennsylvania. A plasterer by trade, he followed that occupation throughout his career. Before coming to this county he married Matilda Couchenour, and they were the parents of four children, two of whom are now living. Hezekiah Irwin died in 1860 and his widow survived until 1903.

David Irwin, who was born in the city of Peru, January 27, 1847, has always made this city his home. He was reared during a time when the schools were not yet established on the public and free basis of later times, and his education was attained from schools that were supported by subscription. He also has the distinction of having attended the first free school which was opened in this city. When he was fourteen years old he earned his first money, twenty-five cents per day, by driving a horse in a wheat elevator. During two following seasons he worked on a farm, and then learned the butchers trade. Mr. Irwin followed the business of butchering, conducting a meat market, and for twelve years he presided over a business of his own in this city and supplied a large patronage with the best products in his line.







*W. S. Slesley*  
PHOTOGRAPHER

“MAPLE HURST”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. ELMER E. GWINN

In 1894 he was elected to the office of city clerk and held that position four years. Since retiring from this office he has been engaged in the general insurance, real estate and bonding business, and his office has been the medium for a large volume of transactions in those lines.

In politics Mr. Irwin is a Democrat, but maintains an independent attitude so far as local affairs are concerned, and in every way is a supporter and advocate of good government. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his church is the Presbyterian. On September 28, 1876, he married Miss Emma N. Stigleman, of Peru.

ALBERT Q. GALLAHAN. Secretary of the Peru Building & Loan Association and a member of the insurance and real estate firm of David Irwin & Company, Mr. Gallahan represents an important field of local business enterprise and is one of the able and representative citizens of the county seat.

He was born just across the Miami county line in Cass county, October 22, 1871, being one of six children, four of whom are now living, born to Nathan W. and Mary F. (Voorhis) Gallahan. The maternal grandfather was H. N. Voorhis. Nathan W. Gallahan, who was a native of Miami county, followed farming in this district all his life.

Albert Q. Gallahan was reared on the old home farm and received his education in the public schools. When he was twenty-two years of age he started out for himself, and began as a house painter. Soon afterwards he developed his trade into a business proposition, and began taking contracts for house painting. In August, 1895, he located at Peru and in this city became identified with the grain and milling business of Messrs. Mercer & Neal. Then in July, 1899, he became a clerk in the local office of the Wabash Railway, and was connected with the railway service in this city for twelve years. He resigned that position in order to accept the secretaryship of the Peru Building & Loan Association, and at the same time formed his partnership with David Irwin in the insurance and real estate business.

Mr. Gallahan is independent in politics and is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is now secretary of the Peru-Miami Lodge No. 67, A. F. & A. M. He was married January 23, 1895, to Miss Luella M. Stigleman. They are the parents of one daughter, Mary Irwin.

ELMER E. GWINN. The customary movement of the American farmer in seeking a new home is in the direction of the west or southwest or northwest, but in recent years there has been a noteworthy tendency of landowners in the state of Illinois and also of Indiana to move eastward, selecting lands in still older states. One of the newcomers in Miami county, now a resident of Pipe Creek township is Mr. Elmer E. Gwinn, who some five or six years ago bought a beautiful country place in the township, and now makes it his permanent home and is engaged in the development of its acreage as a modern stock farm.

Mr. Elmer E. Gwinn, who belongs to a pioneer family of the middle west was born in Douglas county, Illinois, January 10, 1861. He is a son of Andrew Gwinn, a grandson of Moses Gwinn, and a great-grandson of Samuel Gwinn. The maiden name of his mother was Elizabeth Sargent, and the name of his grandmother on his father's side was Elizabeth Wilson, a daughter of Henry Wilson.

Andrew Gwinn, the father, was born in Virginia, April 3, 1836, and when a young man went out to Douglas county, Illinois. He arrived in that vicinity with a horse and bridle, and one hundred dollars in cash. Though he started with little money, he had the ability of a



thorough business man, and for some time was engaged in buying up claims, which had been taken up by people who at the time were discouraged with existence in that part of the country, and who wanted to get rid of their land, and either return to the east or go on further west. By trading and purchase, Andrew Gwinn at one time owned as high as thirty-one hundred acres of land. He was married in Douglas county, and the thirteen children in his family are named as follows: Louise Jane; Elizabeth Ann, deceased; Rachel Berry, deceased; Mary Matilda; Thornton William; Andrew Louis, deceased; Lorenzo Howard, deceased; Enos Prather, deceased; Samuel C., deceased; John Wilson, deceased; Oliver M., deceased; Elmer Ellsworth; and Virginia May. The father was a very religious man and lived up to his creed. He was an old-fashioned Methodist, and served as superintendent of the Sunday school, and helped in all religious work. In Douglas county, he was one of the foremost in organizing a Methodist society, and building its first church. When his neighbors abandoned the work of construction, he not only gave additional financial aid, but also cut timber out of his own woods, so that the church might be completed. This church was built of logs. The first home in Illinois was also a log house. The father was reared under circumstances which prevented his securing a good education, and he began practical work when a young man, but lived to enjoy excellent success and the esteem of all his community. His death occurred in Illinois in September, 1905. Mr. Elmer E. Gwinn, spent the first fifty-one years of his life on the old homestead in Illinois, and he still owns between nine hundred and one thousand acres of land in that state. He bought his present place in Pipe Creek township about five years ago, and in November, 1911, moved here as his permanent home. The farm consists of two hundred and fourteen acres, and he owns about fifty acres adjoining. Mr. Gwinn has given much attention to the breeding of shorthorn cattle and recently of the Polled Angus, and of high grade horses, and is one of the most skillful stock raisers and handlers of live stock in Miami county. He is a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College, with a diploma in veterinary surgery, and has practiced to some extent, though mostly has applied his skill in the treatment of his own stock.

On December 12, 1894, Mr. Gwinn married Miss Emma Burkey, a daughter of John Burkey, and a granddaughter of Jacob Burkey. Her mother's maiden name was Julia Ann Redman. Her ancestry is Swiss and German, and her family were previously residents of Ohio. Mrs. Gwinn is a native of the old Buckeye state of Ohio and was born June 22, 1869. She received a good practical education in the public schools, and was also a student in high school. She is a cordial, genial lady and has well filled her place as wife and mother. His beautiful home is one of the dearest places on earth to her.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwinn are the parents of one son, Andrew Burky Gwinn, who was born in Douglas county, Illinois, July 17, 1899. He received his diploma when he finished the eighth grade and is now a student in the Bunker Hill high school. Mr. Gwinn and family are members of the Methodist church, and he is affiliated with the Masonic order of Bunker Hill, Indiana, and the Modern Woodmen of America at Oakland, Ill. The pretty estate of Mr. and Mrs. Gwinn is known as "Maple Hurst."

**JOHN T. ARMITAGE.** As a soldier, public official, business man and lawyer, the career of Mr. Armitage has been one of varied experience and exceptional interest. He has been a resident of Peru for more than forty-five years, is one of the best known citizens, and has identified him-

self closely with the progress and development of this city since the time of the war.

John T. Armitage was born on a farm in Jay county, Indiana, on July 17, 1848, and is a son of Seth and Louisa (Timberlake) Armitage. Reared in his native county, he attained a primary education in the district schools and subsequently attended an Academy. From the time he was thirteen years old the war between the states was in progress, and with such mighty events occurring he found it almost impossible to direct his attention to the prosy studies and early in the war made two attempts to join the army. In each instance his service was rejected, but on November, 1863, he succeeded in getting himself enrolled in Company B of the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry. He was sent to the south in time to see service under General George H. Thomas in the last great campaign through Tennessee, and his first important engagement was at Franklin, one of the hardest fought and most sanguinary battles of the entire war. After that he was with the forces which followed up Hood's receding army into Alabama and Mississippi and was engaged in general cavalry service under the declaration of peace. His taste for military life was given ample satisfaction, since his service continued for some time after the close of the Civil war. At Eastport, Mississippi, his command was conveyed by boat to St. Louis, during the spring of 1865, in that city new mounts were supplied, and from there the cavalry proceeded across Missouri into Western Kansas, where they were posted upon the frontier. It was a rare experience and one that few men of the present time have witnessed, to have served along the western borders of American civilization during the late sixties. His service consisted chiefly in the guarding of immigrant trains, in doing the post duty, and in keeping the Indian tribes in proper subjection. The buffalo herds at that time were still the monarchs of the prairies, and it was his lot to witness these countless droves in their feeding and in their passage from one range to the other. At the conclusion of this service he received an honorable discharge at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, September 19, 1865. Mr. Armitage belongs to a military family, being one of four brothers who served the Union cause during the Civil war. Two of these died in service, and two are still living.

Upon his return home Mr. Armitage learned the trade of carpenter and followed that occupation for several years. He located at Peru in 1867, and in this city engaged chiefly in the insurance business. During that employment he took up the study of law, was finally fitted for his examination and was admitted to the bar in 1899. Since then he has been engaged in practice and has enjoyed a fair share of the local clientage. In 1900 he was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney, and served as such for one term. Mr. Armitage is a Republican in politics, is a popular member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and also affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On December 30, 1869, he married Miss Louisa V. Vandevender, and they are the parents of two children, namely, Pearl E. and Gracie. Mr. and Mrs. Armitage both worship in the Methodist church.

BRENTON WEBSTER LOCKRIDGE. The Lockridge family has been identified with Miami county since the decade of the thirties. Its members bore their full share of the work during pioneer times in clearing the forest and making homes in what was then a wilderness, and in later generations the family has been honorably represented in the agricultural and business activities, in the professional and public affairs, and one of the best known and most respected names of Miami county is that of Lockridge..



Brenton Webster Lockridge, now residing in Peru, was born in Richland township, Miami county, May 29, 1850. James Allen Lockridge, his father, was born in Virginia, in 1813, and came to Miami county, Indiana, in the latter part of the thirties. He bought land in Richland township. He was a man of superior education for those days and had taught school in his native state. When coming here the county was yet in a primitive condition and he participated actively in the transformation period that caused this locality to immerge from its wild condition and become a popular and prosperous community. James A. Lockridge was noted as a hunter, and was known to have brought in three deer as his showing for a day's work. On October 5, 1837, he married Nancy Hall, who died August 10, 1845, after being the mother of four children. On January 16, 1847, her husband married Mrs. Delana (Butler) Tackett, and they were the parents of six children. Mr. Lockridge passed away on February 22, 1856, but his widow survived until February 15, 1899. They were Methodists in religion.

Brenton Webster Lockridge was born to his father's second marriage and has always made his home in Miami county, with farming as his regular vocation. When a boy he attended the neighboring district schools at a time when he could be spared from helping in the farm work. He continued to reside on the farm until September, 1903, when he moved to Peru, which has since been his home.

On March 11, 1875, he married Miss Charlotte A. Wray, and the following are their children: Maude, who died when sixteen years old; Ross F., now attorney for the State Board of Corrections and Charities at Shawnee, Oklahoma, formerly principal of the high school at Peru, and also ex-judge of the Circuit Court of Pottawatomie county, Oklahoma; Robert Bruce, who served a period of enlistment in the Spanish-American war, and who lacked but one term of graduation from the Indiana State University when he was accidentally killed during a track meet at Louisville, Kentucky; George, who died when one year old, and Ray, who died at the age of eight years; Earle B., and Marie Delane.

Earle B. Lockridge, an ex-surveyor of Miami county, and well known as an engineer, was born on the same farm as his father, in Richland township, Miami county, on July 7, 1885. He attended the Roann high school for three years and in 1903 was graduated from the Peru high school. In the fall of the same year he entered the State University at Bloomington, where he specialized in mathematics. He engaged in teaching during the fall and winter of 1905, then reentered State University and during his university career was employed as assistant in the engineer's office at Bloomington. In 1906 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for the office of county surveyor of Miami county, being still a minor at the time of the nomination. He was elected only a few weeks after he had passed his twenty-first birthday, and was reelected in 1908 and again in 1910. Mr. Lockridge resides with his parents in Peru, and is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge of this city. The grandfather of Earle B. and father of B. W. Lockridge, also followed the profession of surveying, and the grandson has in his possession a surveyor's book published in 1821.

MICHAEL BURKE. A life that has been marked by definite and worthy achievement and by impregnable integrity of purpose is that of this well known and highly esteemed citizen and representative business man of Peru, where he is a successful contractor in street and sewer construction and improvement. He is one of the sterling and ambitious men given to America by the fair old Emerald Isle, and while he owes

and accords loyalty to the land of his nativity he is most insistently appreciative of the institutions and advantages of that of his adoption, and stands exemplar of the staunchest of American citizenship.

Mr. Burke was born in fine old county Tipperary, Ireland, on the 18th of November, 1852, and is a son of Cornelius and Catherine (O'Meara) Burke, both likewise natives of county Tipperary and representatives of staunch old Irish stock. Of the seven children all are living except one. Michael Burke was reared on a farm in his native county and his educational advantages in his boyhood and youth were those of the national schools of Ireland. His loved and devoted mother died on the 10th of October, 1863, when he was a lad of about eleven years, and in 1871 the family severed the ties that bound them to the Emerald Isle and came to America. They landed in the port of New York city and a few days later went to Toronto, Canada, where they remained a few months, at the expiration of which, in the autumn of 1871, they came to Indiana and established a home in Peru. Here the father passed the residue of his life, a man of uprightness and alert mentality, and here his death occurred on the 16th of October, 1885, both he and his wife having been devout communicants of the Catholic church and their children having been carefully reared in the faith of this noble mother of Christendom.

A sturdy youth of about nineteen years at the time when the family home was established in Peru, Michael Burke soon obtained employment in connection with railway service, and for five years he was thus engaged in the blacksmith shops of the Wabash and the Indianapolis, Peru & Chicago railroads. His next occupation was in the employ of Jeremiah Morrissey, who was engaged in public contract work and for whom Mr. Burke eventually became foreman. His effective services gained to him the confidence and high regard of Mr. Morrissey, and he was eventually admitted to partnership in the business, of which he became the general manager. About the year 1884 he began contracting in an entirely independent way, and through effective and honest work in the handling of all contracts he built up a substantial and profitable enterprise, which he continued in an individual way until 1898, when Moses Rosenthal was admitted to partnership, under the firm name of Burke & Rosenthal. This alliance continued until 1904, at the death of Mr. Rosenthal, and Mr. Burke since that time has been without a partner. The firm has done a large amount of important contract work, especially along the line of public improvements, with the result that it has become one of the foremost of its kind in this section of the state. The principal lines of the excellent sewerage system of Peru were installed under contract by Mr. Burke and other public utilities have been signally furthered through his effective interposition in the handling of important contracts.

Since 1903 the firm of Burke & Rosenthal has also conducted a thriving business in the handling of coal, wood, cement, sewer pipe, etc., and its members are known and honored as progressive and representative business men of Miami county. Mr. Burke is essentially liberal and public-spirited and takes deep interest in all that touches the welfare of his home city and county, especially in view of the fact that here he has found opportunity for the gaining of definite success and prosperity through well directed endeavor. He is a stalwart in the camp of the Democratic party and since 1909 he has served as earnest and valued member of the Peru board of education.

On the 3d of May, 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Burke to Miss Anna O'Brien, daughter of James O'Brien, of Wabash county, and the three children of this union are Catherine, Mary and Cornelius James.



REUBEN C. HARRISON AND BENTON HARRISON. A history of Miami county will best fulfill its purposes which preserves an enduring record of the largest number of careers of those men who as pioneers, as original settlers, laid the foundations of the solid prosperity and affluence which this western country has in recent years proceeded to enjoy as a harvest of early toil and hardships. Among the names most entitled to the distinction of such record is that of Harrison, which has been identified with Miami county for more than seventy-five years. In the three quarters of a century which elapsed since the first of the name located in this county, practically all the development of progress and civilization have taken place and have been consummated in this region.

Reuben C. Harrison, who settled in the woods of Richland township of Miami county in 1837, was born February 2, 1805 in Cynthiana, Harrison county, Kentucky, and was a son of Lawrence Harrison. Lawrence Harrison had served the colonies as a captain during their struggle for independence. Few families have been more intimately identified with pioneer movements in America than that of the Harrisons. The original seat of the family was in Virginia, and from that old commonwealth, after the Revolution, members of the family moved over the Alleghanies into Kentucky during the dark and bloody days of that state. They settled in that portion of Kentucky which now has a county memorializing the name Harrison. Lawrence Harrison, the Revolutionary patriot, was an own cousin of William Henry Harrison, the hero of Tippecanoe and subsequently president of the United States. Lawrence Harrison died in Kentucky, and by his marriage with Mary Moore were born four children. One of their sons, William, served in the war of 1812.

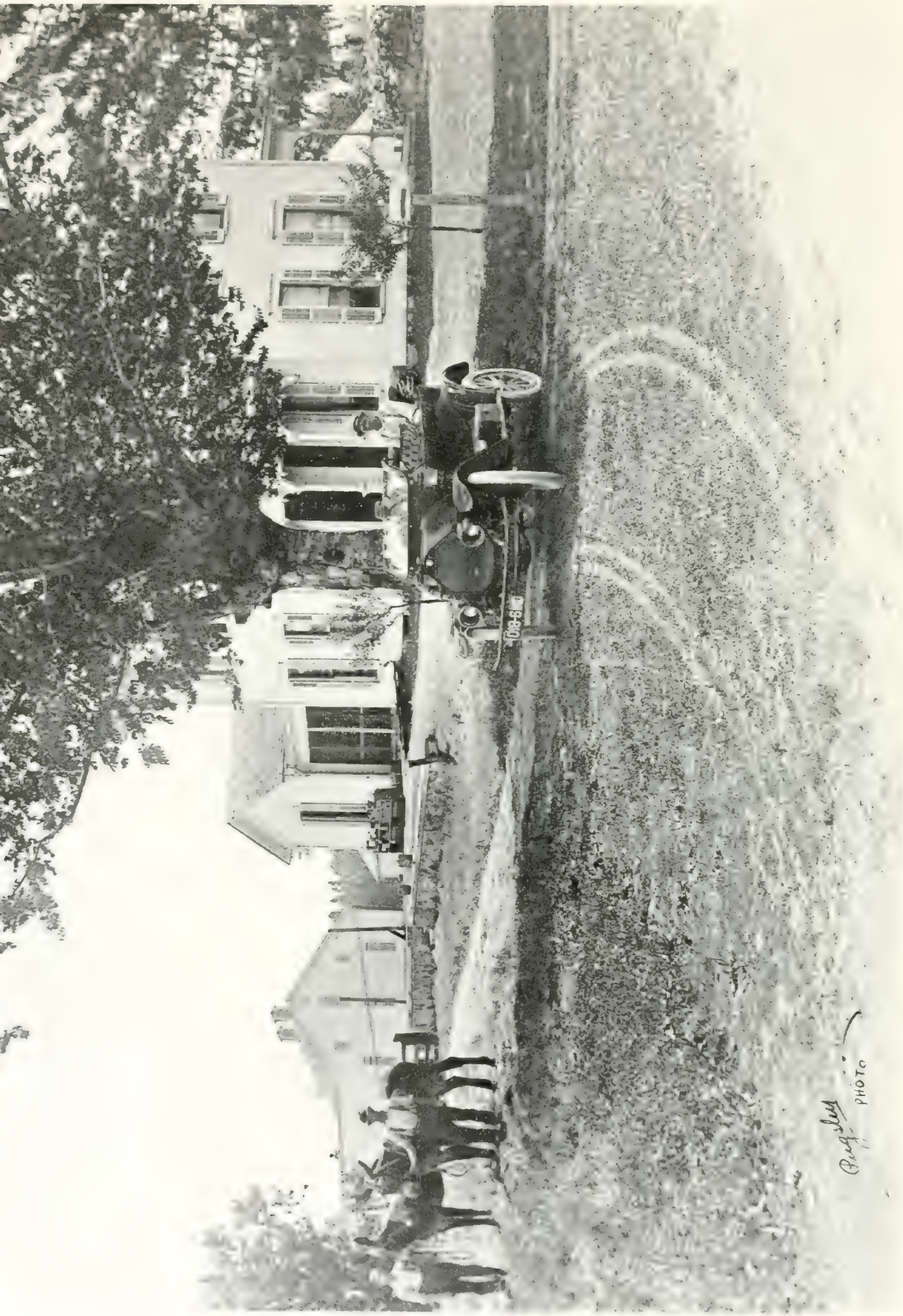
Reuben C. Harrison, the third in the family, spent the first sixteen years of his life in his native state, and all the education that he acquired was that obtained by observation and self study. At the age of sixteen he went to Louisiana, where for several years he was engaged in chopping wood on Folly Island on the Mississippi river. This wood was used by the steamboats which plied up and down that great chain. He then came up the Mississippi Valley as far as Galena, Illinois, where he was engaged at work in the lead mines. His next removal was to Warren county, Ohio, where he was employed as a "framer." This name has very obscure meaning at the present time, and the occupation is practically unknown at the present day. The work of a framer consisted in preparing the frame work in connection with carpentering. While engaged in that occupation in Warren county, Ohio, Reuben C. Harrison married in December, 1830, Judith A. Keever. The two children born to them during their residence in Ohio were William J. and Julia A. They subsequently moved to Wayne county, Indiana, and from there in 1837 to Richmond township, Miami county.

In that township he bought eighty acres of school land, a tract that was heavily timbered, and there in the midst of the dense woods began his pioneer efforts in making a home. He built a log cabin which was the first shelter of himself and family, and when that work of necessity was completed, he began clearing the timber and grubbing the stumps in preparation for planting a crop. The round-log cabin eventually gave place to a more pretentious hewed log house, and that in time to more modern and comfortable structures.

Reuben C. Harrison along with his hard pioneer work also took an active part in public affairs. During his residence in Ohio, on August 22, 1831, he was appointed by Governor McArthur as captain of the Seventh Company, Second Regiment, Second Brigade in the First Division of the Ohio State Militia. Both physically and mentally he was the







Reynolds PHOTO

"WEASAW RESERVE STOCK FARM"  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. SOLOMON D. RABER



type of man which the modern student likes to associate with the representative old settler. He was more than six feet in height in his stocking feet, was broad shouldered, rather spare of flesh and though his hair was black, his complexion was fair, and his beard sandy and eyes grey. In politics he gave lifelong allegiance to the Democratic party. In 1840, after his settlement in Miami county, he served as tax collector. In the possession of his son Benton there is a receipt dated December 23, 1840, from the State Auditor, for the amount \$495.15, showing the amount paid by him and credited by the state department. In November, 1842, he was elected a justice of the peace and commissioned as such by Governor Bigger. Then in 1848 he was elected and commissioned by Governor Whitcomb as probate judge of Miami county. He held that office until the position of probate judge was abolished under a new law. As a result of his service as probate judge he was ever afterwards almost universally known as Judge Harrison. In 1856 he was elected to the state legislature. He held the office of county commissioner in 1868, and continued in the same office by reelection for six years.

Reuben C. Harrison passed away on March 15, 1881, and in his death Miami county lost one of its finest types of pioneer citizens. His wife died August 1, 1886. After their settlement in Miami county six children were born to them, in addition to the two already named, these six being as follows: Mary J., Thomas Stanford, Frances, Benton, Lawrence and Ida M. Of all the children, only two are now living, namely, Benton and Ida M. The parents had a long and felicitous married life, and one of the impressive events in the social circle of their old home community was the celebration of their golden wedding on December 2, 1880.

Mr. Benton Harrison, the last surviving son of the pioneer above sketched, was born on the old home farm in Richland township on June 22, 1845. As a boy he grew up and came to know by actual experience much that was typical of pioneer life in this county. He attained his education from the neighboring schools, such as were then provided, and at the age of twenty-one started out for himself by renting his father's farm.

On February 1, 1872, he married Melissa A. Nicholson, a daughter of George and Emily (Beers) Nicholson, of Erie township, Miami county. In 1873 they moved to the farm of George Nicholson, Mr. Harrison's father-in-law, in Erie township, and as a renter operated that place until 1875 at which time the thrift and industry of himself and wife had enabled them to procure a farm of their own consisting of one hundred and sixty-four acres in Erie township. That remained his home continuously up to 1902 at which date he sold the old place and bought one hundred and thirty-three acres in Cass county. Though he has since owned the Cass county farm, he has not resided there but has made his home in a comfortable residence at Peru.

Mr. Harrison in 1882 served as assessor of Erie township, and in 1884 was elected township trustee, being reelected in 1886 and serving four years altogether. He has always been an active supporter of the Democratic party. He is affiliated with the Masonic Order. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison are the parents of seven children, namely: William J., Jessie, now deceased; Reuben C.; Emily M.; George W., deceased; Julia A.; and Leona May, now the wife of Russell Packard, of Detroit.

**SAMUEL RABER AND SOLOMON D. RABER.** Among those sturdy, energetic men who put up the sign posts of civilization in Indiana, Samuel Raber, of Miami county, is indeed worthy of mention. Settling in this section in an early day he won the regard and respect of everyone by



his strong character, his devotion to duty, his honesty and uprightness and his respect for the rights of others. He lived his entire life as a farmer also carpenter and joiner by trade in this section and he was successful in a worldly way. It was his pardonable boast that he always made good in anything he undertook, and that this was true was due to the fact that he went into everything with a fixed determination to win. His death was a great loss to the county and the township with whose affairs he was for so long identified.

Samuel Raber was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of July, 1834. His father was a farmer and he grew to manhood on the farm, but he learned the trade of a carpenter and in his early life he combined carpentry with farming. In the spring of 1854 he, in company with two other young men, set out for the West, their destination being Council Bluffs, Iowa, which was at that time one of the trading posts of the frontier. He had about four hundred dollars in his pocket, this being the proceeds of the time which he had spent as a carpenter in a ship yard in Pennsylvania. On his way he stopped in Miami county, Indiana, to visit some old friends, and while here he renewed his acquaintance with Miss Sarah Ann See, a daughter of Charles See, who had come from the East and settled here a number of years before. The attractions of this young lady proved stronger than the wilderness ahead of him, and on June 19, 1856, they were married. Buying eighty acres of land in Union township, he settled down to the work of clearing and improving the land and establishing a home. Here he passed the remainder of his life, becoming one of the leading citizens of the community. He and his wife became the parents of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, and the remarkable feature about this is that with the exception of one daughter who died in early childhood, all of these children are now living. The mother died on the 15th of March, 1886. She was a member of the Lutheran church as was her husband, and she was typical of those strong, self-reliant frontier women who were the mothers of the best of our Middle Western men of today. On June 19, 1887, Mr. Raber was again married, his wife being Miss Catherine English, who has since died.

In politics Mr. Raber was a member of the Democratic party, but his farm and the care of his large family occupied his time to the exclusion of any active political part he might have played. He died on the 17th of May, 1898, and both he and his wife are buried in the Weasaw Church cemetery.

Solomon D. Raber, the fourth son of Samuel Raber, holds the same place in the regard of the community as his father did before him. A farmer and stock raiser by occupation, Mr. Raber has become very successful, and is interested in business enterprises outside of the above. Born and educated in this section of the state he has made many friends, and has the good wishes and esteem of all.

Solomon D. Raber was born on the 30th of August, 1863, in Union township, Miami county, Indiana. He grew up on his father's farm and attended the district schools in that vicinity. He learned carpentry and being ambitious for more of an education than the district schools could give him he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso attending this institution for two winter terms and paying his expenses by carpentry and in fact by any odd jobs which he could find to do. When he was about eighteen years of age he started out in life on his own account, and for a number of years he worked on the farm and at the carpenter's bench.

After his marriage he devoted himself exclusively to farming and stock raising. He now owns about four hundred and fifty acres of

land and he is one of the largest stock raisers in Miami county. He is a stock holder in the Denver Home Telephone Company and is always keenly interested in any business enterprise that will be for the good of the people of this section. He belongs to the Lutheran church and in politics is a member of the Democratic party. In the fraternal world he is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

Mr. Raber was married on the 10th of February, 1889, to Miss Minerva Brower, a daughter of John Brower, who is given further mention elsewhere in this volume. Three sons have been born to this union, namely, Harry B., Clarence and Charles. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Raber is known as "The Weasaw Reserve Stock Farm."

GEORGE L. MURDEN AND JESSE L. MURDEN. For many years the name Murden has been prominently and honorably identified with the business enterprise of Peru. The firm of G. L. Murden & Son now has a large automobile business in this city, and Mr. Jesse L. Murden is prominent in financial affairs as secretary of the Home Savings & Loan Association.

Of pioneer Miami families none is entitled to more special distinction than that of Murden, since it has been continuously identified by residence and activities in this county for eighty years. Charles and Martha (Williams) Murden, the founders of the family in this region came from Maryland and located in Indiana in 1833 and the following year took up their residence in the wilderness of Miami county, their first home being established near the present village of Mexico. They were the parents of thirteen children, most of whom in turn established homes and families of their own, so that the progeny of the Murden stock is well distributed throughout this section of the state and has always carried excellent qualities of manhood and social character.

In the next generation after Charles Murden was Thomas William Murden, father and grandfather respectively of the two gentlemen whose names are given above. He was born in Maryland, September 25, 1822 and was about twelve years of age when the family located in Miami county. On August 15, 1844, he married Cynthia Ann Smith, who was born November 13, 1826, daughter of Thomas and Catherine Smith, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of North Carolina. Thomas Smith and family introduce another pioneer name in this history, since they settled in Miami county in 1830, several years previous to the location of the Murdens in this vicinity. Their first home was a short distance south of the village of Mexico, but they moved to Chili, in this county. Thomas Smith remained in that vicinity until his death on February 28, 1865, and he and his wife were the parents of fifteen children. Thomas W. Murden and wife, in December, 1846, settled near McGrawville, in this county. After some years of residence there they moved in March 1860 to a farm in Clay township, and that was the permanent home of the family for many years. On that old place Thomas W. Murden died August 13, 1895, when seventy-three years of age, and after fifty-one years of happy married companionship. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, nine of whom grew to mature years. The names of this family were as follows: Mrs. Ann Hutchinson; Mrs. Catherine Erb; Irvin; George L.; Philora, wife of C. Bayless; Oliver S.; Rebecca Ann, wife of Daniel F. Deish; Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Feiser; William died at age of thirty-three; and Mary Adelle, who died in infancy.

On the old homestead in Clay township of this county, George L. Murden was born September 6, 1860, and has spent practically all his life in this county. After attending school and getting the experiences of youth on the home farm, he went to Peru and engaged in the livery



business with which his name was for many years identified. He married Miss Hettie B. Hamilton. They became the parents of three sons. Mr. and Mrs. Murden both reside in Peru at the present time.

Jesse L. Murden who is the only survivor of the three children born to his parents, was born in Clay township of this county, January 11, 1886. Since he was about one year of age, he has spent all his life in Peru, and obtained his education in the public schools of this city. His career is one of self-advancement, and from an early age he exhibited a strong independence and self-reliance of spirit. When he was twelve years old he established a little shop for confectionery and ice cream on Grant Street and carried on quite a prosperous business there each summer. During the winter following he went to school and also carried the evening *Journal* as a means of contributing to his private exchequer. In this alternation of pursuits he continued for about six years, and then having arrived at independent years became associated with his father in the livery business. For four years they were both engaged in the confectionary business in this city, but with that exception the livery establishment under the name of Murden was continued in this city for nearly twenty-six years. In 1912 the father and son disposed of the livery and have since conducted an automobile garage.

In April, 1912, Mr. Jesse L. Murden became secretary of the local chapter of the Loyal Order of Moose. He is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Order of Elks. He represents the American Surety Company of New York, which bonds all the officers of all the subordinate lodges of The Loyal Order of Moose throughout the United States. His church is the Methodist, and in politics he is a Republican. On November 15, 1910, Mr. Murden married Mary K. Radel and they are the parents of one daughter, Mary C. Ruth.

**FRANK FISHER.** No finer work is being carried on in Mexico than that of Elder Frank Fisher, who has for years been actively identified with the Old Folks' and Orphan Children's Home of the Church of the Brethren of the Middle District of Indiana, with its location at Mexico, Indiana. Elder Fisher is a native of Monticello, White county, Indiana, born near Camden, Indiana, on November 29, 1856, and is one of the five children of Benjamin R. Fisher and his wife, Lydia (Barnard) Fisher. Benjamin Fisher was born in Virginia, and was a son of David Fisher, also a native born Virginian, and a man of German ancestry.

Concerning the latter, it may be said that David Fisher and his family emigrated to Carroll county, Indiana, subsequently moving to White county, where both he and his son, Benjamin R. Fisher, the father of the subject, passed their closing days. David Fisher was an elder of the Church of The Brethren and he became widely known as a preacher and missionary of that denomination. A firm believer in the doctrines of his church, he was long active in his work of preaching the brotherhood of man, and he ardently opposed the going to law for legal redress and all war and strife, while he staunchly upheld the anti-slavery theories then gaining a foothold, and was a firm advocate of temperance in all things.

Elder Frank Fisher is the eldest of the five children born to his parents, all of whom are living today. When he was ten years old his father died and from that time until manhood he remained on the home farm in White county, assisting his mother as far as he was able in providing for the younger members of the family. His education was thus necessarily limited to a few seasons of attendance at the country

schools, but he was ambitious to study and advance himself in book lore, and it is to his undying credit that he labored strenuously at farm work to earn the money that made possible his passage through the Monticello high school. For eleven terms thereafter he taught public school, and he was known for a successful and competent school-master in his time.

In 1881 Mr. Fisher married and following that event he engaged in farming in White county, continuing in the work until the fall of 1889, when he came to Mexico to take charge of the Old Folks' and Orphan Children's Home. In about 1893 he sold his White county farm and later bought land in Miami county, where he is now the owner of a fine place of one hundred and twenty-eight acres in Jefferson township, and this he operates successfully in connection with his other work. He was ordained a minister of the Church of The Brethren in 1884, and since 1905 he has been an Elder of this church. Since becoming a resident of Miami county he has been actively identified with church and charitable work, and for all those institutions that stand for good in any community.

As has been mentioned, Elder Fisher was married on March 6, 1881, to Lilla J. Reiff, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Klechner) Reiff, natives of the state of Pennsylvania.

GEORGE BAIR AND JAMES S. BAIR. No race has contributed more to the strength of this county than has the German, and the Bair family of Miami county, Indiana, are typical representatives of this race, although the original ancestor who came to this country dates many generations back. George Bair, now deceased, settled in this county in pioneer days, and was one of the men who, blessed with an education, did so much to make the lives of the early pioneer settlers easier, being both a teacher and preacher, as well as a practical and successful farmer. His son, James S. Bair, is now the only representative of the family in this county, and he is one of its leading citizens, not only in a business way but also in the public life of the community, for he is both public spirited and gifted with unusual executive ability.

George Bair was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, on the 1st of January, 1812, a son of Henry Bair, who was a native of Maryland and of German ancestry. George Bair was reared in his native state and there received a good education, practical as well as scholarly. He taught school and also farmed in Virginia and then he married Catharine Crumpacker. With the old spirit that brought their ancestors across the seas these two with their little family determined to go further west and so in October, 1857, arrived in Miami county, Indiana. Here they determined to locate and Mr. Bair bought eighty acres in the north-west part of section 30, in Jefferson township, during the following year. He built thereon a double log house and a log barn and set to work to clear and improve his property. In the winters when there was little work he taught school and he was also a preacher of the German Baptist church. He and his wife became the parents of six children, as follows: Mary Jane, Lewis E., Ann, James S., Jonas B. and Catharine E. Mr. Bair died on the 24th of August, 1864, and his wife passed away on June 3, 1856.

James S. Bair was born in Virginia, on the 13th of November, 1848, and was thus nearly nine years old when he came with his parents in a great canvas-covered wagon to Miami county. He grew up on his father's backwoods farm and received his education in the district schools. Mr. Bair at the age of sixteen found himself an orphan and he and his brothers set to work to support the family. They operated the



old farm, and in this work James S. Bair was engaged until 1872. During the latter year he farmed on rented land in Fulton county, and then he returned to Miami county where he bought the old homestead in Jefferson township. He resided on the farm until September, 1906, when he removed to Mexico, Indiana, and there he has since resided. Since 1907 he has been the manager of the Mexico Home Telephone Company, and he has also been kept busy in looking after his farming interests.

In politics Mr. Bair is a member of the Democratic party and he has taken an active share in the affairs of his party. In April, 1886, he was elected trustee of Jefferson township and he served until April, 1888. He was again elected to this office in April, 1890, and served until August, 1895. In 1902 he was elected a member of the Board of County Commissioners, taking office in 1904. It was during his term of office that the new court house, the pride of Miami county, was begun, and he was active in his efforts to secure this building for the county. Both he and his wife are members of the Brethren church.

Mr. Bair was married on the 13th of October, 1870, to Sarah Maus, a daughter of George and Catharine (Minnick) Maus, both of whom were natives of Germany, who came to this country in their young days and were here married, becoming pioneers in Miami county. Mr. and Mrs. Bair have become the parents of three children, namely: Leota, who is the wife of Lawrence E. Strong, a farmer of Jefferson township; Stella May, who died at the age of twenty-one, in May, 1897, and George F., who married Mattie Lineback and is a United States Railway Service mail clerk, his home being in Peru, Indiana.

**JORDEN SWINDLER.** A farmer of prominence and success of Jefferson township, and a resident of this county for the past thirty-four years, is a native of Rappahannock county, Virginia, born there February 3, 1853. His parents, James W. and Lucy (Johnson) Swindler, both of whom were natives of the Old Dominion, and paternally of German ancestry, were farming people by occupation.

James W. Swindler moved his family to Green county, Ohio, in 1856, and was there during the Civil war, when he raised a company for service. Being somewhat gifted along the line of military tactics, he drilled the company and prepared it for service, but he himself did not participate actively. He later moved to Daviess county, Missouri, expecting to make that his home, but the country thereabout proving distasteful to him, he returned to Green county, Ohio, some two months later, and there he and his wife passed their remaining days. Mr. Swindler was a Democrat, and served in a number of local positions of trust and honor, among which was that of township trustee and justice of the peace. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are yet living.

Jorden Swindler was the seventh born of this goodly family. He was three years old when his parents moved to Ohio, and there he was reared to years of manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. On reaching his legal majority he set out for himself as a farm hand, and in this work he continued for five years. During that time he saved something like \$150 in cash and had acquired a horse and buggy besides. In 1879 he moved to Cass county, Indiana, where on January 22, 1879, he married Addie Constant, and there remained until the autumn of 1881, when he moved to his present home in Jefferson township, Miami county, on which place he has resided continuously since that time.

On June 5, 1884, Mrs. Swindler died, having borne three children.







“BENGALOW LODGE”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. HENRY ENGEL

Aug 24th 1890

all of whom are now deceased. On April 15, 1885, Mr. Swindler married Amanda J. Myers, the daughter of John F. Myers, one of the old settlers of the district and a commissioner of Miami county. To them were born the following named children: Iona, now the wife of Charles F. Shively; James Frederick, who married Marie Eikenberry and resides in Jefferson township; Jessie May and Vesta Jordan.

Mr. Swindler not only makes farming his occupation, but he farms along progressive and intelligent lines. Coupled with this is his stock-raising, his Polled-Angus cattle being a specialty and well known to the county. His farm, comprising 571 acres of the choicest land in the county, is one of the well kept and thriving spots to be found, a credit to its owner and to the community at large. Mr. Swindler is a Democrat in his political faith, and he and his wife are members of the Eel River Christian church.

The beautiful estate of Mr. Swindler is known as "The Eel River Stock Farm." Mr. and Mrs. Swindler have a beautiful 5-passenger Great Western Touring Car for pleasure as well as business, and the machine has run 2700 miles.

**HENRY ENGEL.** Prominently and profitably engaged in farming and one of the most enterprising and progressive men in Washington township. Henry Engle is a splendid type of German-American citizenship, though he has spent practically all the years since his earliest childhood in Miami county. Besides gaining enough material prosperity for his own wants and comforts and those of his family, Mr. Engel has interested himself in the public affairs of his township and county, and has been an active factor in every movement for the betterment of his locality.

Henry Engel was born in Germany March 14, 1854, a son of Herman and Margarite (Speremberg) Engel. The family immigrated from the Fatherland in 1858 in a sailing vessel and were six weeks in crossing the Atlantic. They made their first permanent settlement in Pipe Creek township of Miami county. On a farm in that vicinity they made their home for six months, and during this time the father worked out by the day in order to acquire the means to support his family. He then moved into Washington township and rented a farm. Up to this time he had been unable to save anything from his current income, income and expense having just about equalized each other during all the years of his American residence. From that time as a renter he continued for ten years, then lived on another place for a few years, and at the end of that time was in a position to buy a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Pipe Creek township. He then sold that place and bought one hundred acres in Cass county, where he made his home until his death in 1907. He was a man of thrifty and industrious habits, and before his death had acquired means sufficient to provide for all his comforts.

Henry Engel left home after his first marriage, and spent one year with his wife's uncle. He then came to the farm in Washington township, which is his present home. Here he has eighty acres of land, and twenty acres of this he cleared out of the brush and woods with his own toil. He has moreover put up all the buildings and the improvements which now classify this place as one of the progressive homesteads of Washington township. About one year ago Mr. Engle built a modern house just across from the old house in which he had lived for a number of years, and in this new home he and his family have many attractive comforts and conveniences, and the entire farm is representative of the



conveniences and facilities which one of the best counties in Indiana furnishes to its progressive farming population.

Mr. Engel is a member of the Horse Thief Association of his community, and at the present time is serving on the township advisory board. On December 24, 1878 he was married to Elizabeth Lees, a daughter of John Lees. They were the parents of four children, namely: Maud A., who married Israel Lees, Jr.; Grace M., who married Clarence Pier; Ada A., who married Jesse Welsh; and Walter A., who married Elizabeth Raydell. Grace and Ada received their diplomas from the public schools and Ada was a teacher in Washington township. The mother of this family died September 2, 1888, and Mr. Engel married for his second wife on October 20, 1889, Miss Parlee Lees, a daughter of Israel and Harriet (Klise) Lees, Jr. Mrs. Engel is a native of Miami county and was born May 3, 1864. She has three brothers living in Indiana. Both her parents are deceased. She was educated in the common schools. Mr. and Mrs. Engel are the parents of one son Herman Cecil, born December 19, 1901, and now attending school in Washington township in the fifth grade. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Engel is known as "Bungalow Lodge." It was erected in 1911, finished in hardwood and is modern in detail.

THOMAS J. RHODES. The vocation of farming is more and more attracting the energies and ability of the young men of the country, and in the case of Thomas J. Rhodes of Jefferson township love of country life was almost the earliest and certainly the most persistent passion of his career. He is one of the very successful men in this business, and has gained particular reputation as a stock raiser. He has spent money, patience and labor in laying the foundation of a splendid herd of Poland China hogs, which is now considered one of the best in this section of Indiana.

Thomas J. Rhodes, who has been a resident on his present place in Jefferson township since March, 1901, was born in Fulton county, Indiana, June 14, 1867. He is one of eight children, all of whom are living, born to Joseph P. and Alma (Hoover) Rhodes, who were also natives of Fulton county. The Rhodes family settled in the woods of Fulton county in pioneer days, and were not only settlers, but among the best people locating in that vicinity. Joseph P. Rhodes the father, was a farmer by occupation and during the war enlisted in Company A of the One Hundred and Fifth Indiana Infantry. He enlisted at the age of sixteen, and after the war returned home, married and was engaged in farming all his career. By reason of his honesty and upright character he commanded the respect of all who knew him. He belonged to the Baptist church in early life, but later united with the United Brethren. However, he was in no sense a doctrinarian, his religious principles being only one phase of a wholesome and well rounded character. He believed in living up to the golden rule, advocated and practiced temperance in all things, was never known to use profane language, and at the same time conceded many privileges to his fellow men which he would not allow himself. He was as honest as the day was long, and was a credit to his community. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Thomas J. Rhodes was reared in his native county, and as the oldest of the children his boyhood was largely spent in helping in the work of the home farm. At the same time, especially during the winter season, he attended the neighborhood schools. From boyhood he evinced a love for stock and outdoor life, and it was as a result of a determined purpose that he made farming his life occupation.







*J. E. Miller*

On February 11, 1888, at the age of twenty-one, he married Miss Orpha D. Mikesell, whose parents were Phillip and Orpha (Girard) Mikesell. To their union was born one son, Cecil Jefferson, on March 9, 1909, who died March 22, 1910. After his marriage Mr. Rhodes engaged in farming in Fulton county, until his removal to his present home in Miami county. Raising the general crops and taking great delight in his stock, Mr. Rhodes has made a specialty of hogs. He sends to market some of the finest Poland Chinas grown in Miami county. His farm comprises two hundred acres of land, one hundred and seventy acres in Richland township, and also he is the owner of city property in Peru. Mr. Rhodes is a Progressive in politics and he and his wife worship in the Evening Light church.

**JOSEPH ELISHA MILLER.** The late Joseph Elisha Miller, the youngest born of the children of Levi and Ursula (Allbaugh) Miller, concerning whom extended mention is made in an article dedicated to Levi and John H. Miller, to be found elsewhere in this historical work, was born on January 11, 1858, and died on March 22, 1911. He was one who received in his home the training of a practical business man in his father, and of a tender, Christian woman in his mother. He inherited more of the characteristics of his mother, be it said, than of his father, and his life begun and developed under her earnest and tender ministrations and guidance, rounded out into that of well-defined and admirable Christian manhood. He was taught to work on the home farm and in early boyhood attended the neighboring district schools.

It was thus that he was reared to young manhood, and when he was about twenty-one years old, under the advice and encouragement of his father, he made his first independent venture as a farmer. He raised his first crop of wheat as an independent operator, receiving for his grain the price of a dollar a bushel. With this sum, realized as a result of his own labor, he bought eighty acres of land from his father, going in debt for a part of the purchase price, and that transaction was the initial one of his praiseworthy career in farming.

In 1899 Mr. Miller bought one hundred and twenty acres of adjoining land, and gradually, with the passing of time, added to his holdings in real estate until at one time in his career, he owned 480 acres of the finest farm land in the county. Mr. Miller was one of the first men in Miami county to embark, with any claim to extensiveness, in the breeding and handling of blooded stock, at one time feeding as many as fifteen hundred head of hogs on his place. It was characteristic of the nature of the man, however, that his greatest interest lay not so much in stock breeding or its kindred lines, but rather in the culture of trees and flowers. He was deeply cognizant of the beauties of nature and turned instinctively to the beautiful wherever it was found, although his appreciation and understanding of the practical made him a person of more than ordinary preceptions. It was in about 1890 that he began planting fruit trees extensively, and under his care and nurture, his initial planting grew into an orchard covering eighty acres of apple, plum, cherry and pear trees. This came to be one of the finest orchards in the county or state, and is still one of the most productive spots to be found hereabouts.

Mr. Miller joined the German Baptist church when a young man, that being the denomination with which his parents affiliated, and during the early months of his church membership he was elected a deacon of the church body, in which capacity he continued to serve honorably and faithfully until his passing. Some two weeks after he became a member of the church he was elected a trustee of the Old Folks'



and Orphan Children's Home, and in this capacity also served during the remainder of his life, which, considering its nature and purpose, was all too brief for humanity's sake.

Mr. Miller exemplified in his life all that was moral and upright, with the finer Christian virtues uppermost in his daily walk. Naturally and by inheritance he possessed character of a high type, and his name is indelibly impressed upon the mind of the present generation as being that of one of Miami county's best and finest citizens.

On February 17, 1902, Mr. Miller was married to Miss Martha A. Pugh, the daughter of William and Sarah (Frantz) Pugh, people of German birth and ancestry. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller were born four children: Joseph Harold, born November 24, 1902; Robert Levi, born August 19, 1904, and died January 28, 1905; John Quinter, born April 23, 1907; and William Timon, born June 23, 1909.

Mrs. Miller was born in Franklin county, Virginia, on February 14, 1876, and came to Miami county some two years prior to her marriage. She still maintains the home farm and continues to operate it since the death of her husband, and has proven beyond cavil the ability and wisdom she possesses in business and executive matters. She has a host of friends in the county, and is especially prominent in her home community.

**JOHN T. HOOD.** The late John T. Hood, long a resident of Jefferson township, where he was for many years successfully engaged in farming, but who spent his closing days in Mexico, where he settled after his retirement from active life, was a man who commanded the unfailing respect and confidence of his fellow men. He was unusually industrious in his habits of life, and prosperity long attended his efforts so that he was able to retire with a competency in December, 1903, and removing to the village of Mexico, he spent the remaining days of his existence quietly and happily. Death claimed him on March 3, 1910, he having died suddenly from a stroke of apoplexy, and his widow still resides in Mexico.

Mr. Hood's life was inclined to quiet and uneventfulness, as is usually the case with men who confined their activities to rural life. He was born in Lunenburg county, Virginia, some distance from the city of Richmond, on the 24th day of January, 1842. He was a son of Robert Hood, a native of North Carolina, who in his youth migrated to Virginia, there married and settled down, passing the remainder of his days in the state of his adoption. He became the father of two sons and two daughters and when he died in middle life, his widow contracted a second marriage. She passed the closing years of her life, after her second widowhood, in the home of her son, John, the younger of her two sons by her first marriage. The other son, James Hood, became a resident of Howard county, Indiana. Amanda and Lucy, the sisters of John Hood of this review, are now deceased.

John T. Hood was about fifteen years of age when he left his native state and came to Indiana, his locating in Miami county dating from the year 1857. He was twenty years of age when he enlisted in Company H, Seventy-third Indiana Regiment of Volunteers, organized at South Bend, Indiana, and in company with his regiment Mr. Hood took part in the campaign against General Bragg, sharing in the battle of Perryville, and following Bragg to Nashville, where the regiment went into camp. He was also a participant in that never-to-be forgotten engagement at Murfreesboro in December, 1862, receiving there a wound in his thigh, from the effects of which he never recovered. He returned to his regiment when he was sufficiently recovered from his injuries to permit, serving

thereafter on detached duty until the war was ended, when he was honorably discharged and returned to his Miami county home.

Soon after his return from the war Mr. Hood purchased a farm of seventy acres situated on the Eel river, and it was in the autumn of that year that his marriage to Miss Martha A. Fisher was solemnized. She was born on November 30, 1848, and is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Brown) Fisher, who at one time owned the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Hood resided for many years. Concerning her parentage, it may be said further than Joseph Fisher was born in Virginia on November 10, 1823, and was a son of Peter Fisher, a native of Pennsylvania who removed to Virginia and later settled in Preble county, Ohio, coming thence to Miami county, Indiana, in 1836. He settled on a farm outside the village of Mexico and died there on May 27, 1878, when he had just passed his eighty-sixth birthday anniversary. Further mention of the Fisher family is found elsewhere in this work, in a sketch dedicated to Joseph Fisher, the father of Mrs. Hood.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hood were born two sons and a daughter. Deo S., the first born, whose natal day was October 9, 1868, was married on March 7, 1889, to Miss Ruth Bond, daughter of Jesse Bond, and they became the parents of three children,—Joseph L., Lyman J. and Clinton B. On November 18, 1898, the wife and mother passed away, and Mr. Hood married again on January 29, 1902, his second wife being Nora See, and to them one son,—Herman, has been born.

Gilbert J., the second son, born September 18, 1876, married Nellie, the daughter of Lewis Bond, on February 23, 1899, and to them a son and daughter,—Margaret and Joseph, have been born.

Bessie, born July 23, 1879, became the wife of Benjamin Bond on July 26, 1900, and died an untimely death on November 21, 1904.

It may be mentioned here that Joseph L. Hood, the eldest son of Deo Hood, married Miss Lova Flora, on April 3, 1912, and they make their home in Saskatchewan, Canada. They have one son,—John Hersey, named in honor of his paternal grandfather, the birth of the heir having taken place on January 12, 1913.

**JOSEPH FISHER.** Between the years of 1863 and 1884 Joseph Fisher and his family resided on the Jefferson township farm, which later became the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Fisher removing to the town of Mexico in 1884 and there passing his remaining days. Death claimed him in 1895, and his widow survived him until September 10, 1908. Mr. Fisher was born in Virginia, on November 10, 1823, and was a son of Peter Fisher, a native of Pennsylvania, who moved first to Virginia and later to Ohio, settling in Preble county of the latter named state, and coming thence to Miami county, Indiana, in 1836. He was a farming man, and he located on a farm about a mile distant from Mexico, there spending his remaining days. He died on May 27, 1878, aged eighty-six years and twenty-five days, his wife having preceded him to the other world on January 20, 1867.

Ten children were born to Peter Fisher and his wife, of which goodly number only one is living today,—Noah, a resident of Andrews, Ind.

Joseph Fisher was married on January 12, 1848, to Elizabeth Brower, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Teal) Brower, who came to this county from Preble county, Ohio, in 1837, and being numbered among the pioneers of Jefferson township. They became the parents of ten children, all of whom are deceased, Mrs. Fisher being the last of the family to pass on. She was born in Preble county, Ohio, on September 28, 1827, and died on September 10, 1908. Joseph and Elizabeth Fisher had four children. Martha A., who married John T. Hood, was



born on November 30, 1848; Sarah became the wife of Schuyler Mercer of Peru, Indiana; Mrs. Rose J. Emswiler is another of the daughters, and another, Emily Dulcina, who married William Crane, was born on November 29, 1851, and died on March 9, 1892, in Chicago, Ill.

**BENJAMIN TRIPPEER.** In Washington township one of the oldest and best known families is that of Trippeer, represented by Benjamin Trippeer, who is now seventy years of age and has spent nearly all his life in Miami county. The family had its share of pioneer toil and hardships, and there are many interesting facts and incidents which might be related concerning the Trippeer family in Miami county. In the following brief sketch will be given a few of these facts, especially as they relate to Mr. Benjamin Trippeer and his immediate family.

Benjamin Trippeer was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 9, 1843, a son of John Trippeer and a grandson of Joseph Trippeer. The maiden name of his mother was Catherine English. Benjamin Trippeer has been twice married. His first marriage occurred in 1867 when Lucy Lynn became his wife. Her death occurred in 1886 and she was the mother of seven children, whose names are mentioned as follows: Cora, who married Samuel P. Wilson; Allen, who married Stella Mowbray; Edward, who married Fannie Riley; Bessie, who married Edward Reeger; Kittie who married George Gilbert Smith; and one child that died in infancy; and Mamie, who died at the age of three years. In 1888 Benjamin Trippeer married Rachael Townsend, daughter of George Townsend and granddaughter of Joseph Townsend. The maiden name of her mother was Susanna Dingman, who was a daughter of James Dingman. There were eight children in the family of her father and mother. Mr. Trippeer by his second union had no children.

Benjamin Trippeer came to Miami county with his father in 1845. There were eight children in the family on their arrival in this county, and they first located in Peru township. Farming was the occupation of the father, and he rented one hundred and sixty acres of land as his first home in this county. After living there a short time he bought ninety-three acres in Washington township, a place that was completely in the woods and requiring all the skill and toil of the true pioneer to make it productive. He erected the first buildings that were ever placed on the farm, and those were of the type then very common in Miami county, being rough log structures. After a number of years he bought more modern houses, barns and outbuildings and the house which he at that time put up is still standing. The father cleared up all the land and was engaged in farming there up to the time of his death. The mother passed away at Peru in 1893.

Benjamin Trippeer as a boy attended school in Washington township, his schooling being only during the winter term and in one of the rough, and primitive school houses which could then be found all over the county. During the spring, summer and fall he and his brothers and sisters assisted in the work of the home and it was in this way that he was equipped and prepared for life. It is an interesting fact of family history that his father had helped build the first school house ever put up in Washington township, that being a log building.

Mr. Benjamin Trippeer remained at home up to the date of his first marriage, and then started out for himself. He was first engaged in the lime business, and continued in that line for about sixteen years. He then bought the old homestead place in Washington township, and took great pleasure in developing and improving the estate on which he had spent the greater part of his boyhood and which was endeared to him by many family associations. He did well as a farmer, and also



*Gayle*  
photo

“RIVER VIEW HOME”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN TRIPPEER





operated a threshing machine outfit over the county. He continued in these occupations until he retired. Mr. Trippeer attends the Methodist church, and is a Democrat in politics and cast his first presidential vote for General George B. McClellan. From 1891 to 1896 he served as a member of the local school board. The name Trippeer is of French origin, as the original progenitors came from France, the land of the "Lily."

Mrs. Trippeer, who is an estimable lady and a model housekeeper, is a native of Miami county born February 14, 1847, and her parents, George and Susanna (Dingman) Townsend were pioneer settlers of Miami county. Her father was a man of activity and erected the first mill, about three and one-half miles west of Peru, and the early settlers used to bring their corn, by the half bushel, in a sack on horseback, to be ground at his mill. He enlarged the facilities of his milling industry till it was one of the leading milling industries of west Miami county.

Mrs. Trippeer, although a little maiden of only seven summers, well remembers this epoch. She was reared and educated in the common schools of her native county and her father's progenitors came from the mother country, England. Mrs. Trippeer although sixty-six years of age, has a mind as bright as a lady of twenty summers. She has been an able factor in aiding her husband in the establishment of their pretty home. An incident worthy of mention in the experience of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Trippeer, during the memorable flood of March 24, 25 and 26, 1913, we will relate briefly. Their residence is located at No. 85 E. River Street, South Peru, and during this memorable flood, the water rose six and one-half feet in their residence, and they were forced to ascend to the second story. Their residence was located on the first street south of the Wabash railroad and Mr. Trippeer was forced to climb a tree in their yard and was held there a prisoner from Tuesday at 11 o'clock A. M. till Wednesday A. M., twenty-two hours, without any sustenance and in the severe cold Mrs. Trippeer was held a prisoner in the tree, from Tuesday at 11 o'clock A. M. till 5 o'clock P. M., ere she was rescued. In the evening of Tuesday Mr. Trippeer tied a rope around his body, to keep him from falling into the turbid waters, in case he fell asleep as he had not closed his eyes for eighteen hours.

The reason they sought refuge in the neighboring tree was, that barns, stables, houses and all kinds of buildings were hurried past their home and they did not know what moment their home might be swept away by the rushing of the whirlpool of waters. The trials and privations of the brave citizens of Peru, Indiana, during the awful flood of March, 1913, will never all be told.

THE FISHER FAMILY, one of the oldest in the United States today, and of Virginia ancestry, has been identified with the history of Miami county since 1836, when Peter Fisher, the old pioneer of Miami county, came hither from Preble county, Ohio, after eighteen years of residence there.

Peter Fisher was a native of Franklin county, Virginia, born there on May 2, 1792, and was a son of Philip Fisher and a grandson of Adam Fisher, a native of Germany, the first of the family to emigrate to America, and settling on these shores as early as 1857, making Pennsylvania his home. Peter Fisher married Elizabeth Brower, a resident of his native state, and in 1828 moved to Preble county, Ohio, where they continued until 1836, when they came to Miami county. The trip from Ohio into Indiana was made across country in wagons, and they located in Miami county on a tract of wilderness land about a mile north of the present site of Mexico, in Jefferson township, the exact location



according to the surveyed plat of the township being sections 25 and 30. There they built their cabin and set about clearing the land to a state where cultivation and production was possible. The timber that then thickly occupied the land was oak, walnut, poplar, hickory and other timber, which if standing today would be worth many times what the land would bring, but would probably not net what the land has produced in the years that it has been cultivated and cropped. Such of the timber as was not required and utilized in making rails for fences and for building purposes, was piled in immense heaps and sacrificed to the Fire god. The business of pioneering in those days was not less rigorous than it is today, and Mr. Fisher found it necessary to go to Michigan City to buy salt, for which he paid the enormous price of \$16 a barrel. Other conditions were commensurate with this, in point of disproportion.

Peter Fisher and his wife were the parents of seven sons and three daughters who grew to years of maturity. They were as follows: Lydia, George, Benjamin, Joseph, Mary, Isaac, Aaron, Hannah, Noah and Jacob. Of these, Noah is the only one now living. Peter Fisher inherited much of the thrift, industry and religious tendencies and characteristics of his ancestors, and was a man who stood high among his fellows wherever he was found. His life after his coming to Miami county was one of hardship and privation, but spite of all they underwent they lived clean, wholesome and honorable lives, and reared their children to the most commendable and honorable citizenship, inculcating in them the reverence of God and a love for the better things of life. The father died on May 27, 1878, his wife having preceded him on January 20, 1867.

George Fisher, the eldest son of these parents, was born in Virginia, on July 23, 1820. He lived with his parents until he reached man's estate, removing with them to Ohio, and thence to Miami county, Indiana, when he was sixteen years of age. He married Miss Barbara Moss, on November 11, 1841. She was the daughter of William Moss, Sr., well known in Miami county in those days. Mr. Fisher was a man of only a limited education. He devoted himself to farming and as a result of his hard work and natural economy, accumulated enough of this world's goods to give each of his children a substantial start in life. He was a man of robust physique and was able to perform an enormous amount of work without suffering ill effects. He was outspoken on all matters, and never was known to shirk a responsibility. Like his father before him, he joined the German Baptist church in young manhood, and to this, as well as to all other laudable public enterprises, he was ever a liberal contributor. The primitive stage in which his pioneer father had lived in his generation gave way to the second stage of development, and he left a well improved estate when he died on January 23, 1890, his wife succeeding him in death on February 17, 1899. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom are yet living. The names of the children in the order of their birth are as follows: William, Henry, Levi, Sarah Jane, Elizabeth, Minerva, Peter M., Alston W. and Christina.

Mrs. Fisher is a native of Miami county, born September 10, 1855, and she is one of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, born to John and Eliza (Price) Ault, and there are six living and three are residents of Miami county. Mrs. Fisher was born, reared and educated in her native county, and is a devout member of the Brethren church.

Henry Fisher, the second son of George Fisher, was born in Jefferson township, Miami county, Indiana, on May 11, 1845. He attended the schools of his neighborhood when a boy and when old enough was

set to work at helping with the general routine work of the home farm. When he became of legal age he started out in life for himself, and he was about twenty-two years old when on October 20, 1867, he married Mary E. Simons, who died on May 20, 1870, leaving him one daughter,—Cora E., who in young womanhood married Josiah Maus, and is now deceased. Mr. Fisher, on April 3, 1873, married Martha A. Biddle, who died on November 8, 1873, without issue. On January 16, 1878, Henry Fisher and Isabel Ault were married. John Ault, the father of Mrs. Fisher, was a native of Ohio, but one of the early settlers of this county, and a man highly esteemed of all in his day. Mrs. Ault was also a native of Ohio, and is now a resident of Cass county, Indiana. Three children have been born to this latter union, as follows: Ira A., Bertha Irene and Tony Earl. Ira A. received his diploma in the common schools and had his teacher's certificate. He has a farm in Cass county. He wedded Mary E. Kraming and they have three children—Irene E.; Paul H.; and Martha I. They are members of the Brethren church. Bertha Irene is at home. She received a common school education and also attended for some time the high school. Tony Earl has a farm in Jefferson township. He received a common school diploma. He attended the Peru High School and is a graduate of the North Manchester College. He was a teacher six years in Miami county. He wedded Miss Susanna Davis and they have two children—Violet L., and Claudia E.

The Fishers have been farming people for generations, and Henry Fisher is no exception to the rule, for his entire life has been occupied in the pursuit of agriculture. He owns a total acreage of two hundred and eighty acres of land, to which he applies himself most industriously, and which has yielded him an abundant and comfortable living. Mr. Fisher, together with his wife and their children, are members of the Church of the Brethren, which was originally known as the German Baptist denomination, and in which the father and grandfather of Mr. Fisher were prominently identified as earnest members.

The social standing of the Fisher family is an excellent one, and Mr. and Mrs. Fisher number their friends by hosts in their own community and wherever they are known.

**SAMUEL IRVIN NEWMAN.** The record of successful men in any of the walks of life needs no introductory preface among the citizens of their native county, and the gentleman who is the subject of this review, Samuel Irvin Newman, of Peru township, is undoubtedly a member of the class just referred to. By his strict personal integrity and honorable dealings, combined with brilliant business qualifications, he has become not only one of the leading agriculturists, but also one of the most highly respected citizens of his section of Miami county. Samuel Irvin Newman was born March 7, 1874, on the old Newman homestead farm in Jefferson township, Miami county, Indiana, and is a son of Thomas Irvin Newman, and a grandson of Samuel K. Newman, the old pioneer settler of the family, and is named for them both.

Like other Indiana farmers' sons of his day and locality, Samuel I. Newman divided his time between attendance at the district schools during the winter months, and assisting in the work of the homestead during the summer, thus growing to sturdy manhood, securing alike a good mental education and a thorough training for the vocation of farmer, which he had decided upon as his life work. He proved an assiduous and apt pupil in both branches, and early developed habits of industry and integrity that have since developed into leading characteristics. He resided with his father and grandfather until his mar-



riage, in 1896, and at that time entered upon a career of his own on a farm belonging to his grandfather, and situated near New Waverly, Indiana. Subsequently, in 1900, he moved to Jefferson township, Miami county, and from that property went to Peru, in which city he lived until 1909. That year marked his advent in Peru township, and here he has resided to the present time. Mr. Newman is now the owner of 525 acres of land, on which he carries on general farming operations in connection with the raising of stock. He has made somewhat of a speciality of breeding thoroughbred Hereford cattle, and in this connection has met with signal success as he has in his various other ventures. In the management of his business interests he has shown himself an excellent business man, and one in whom his associates have the utmost confidence.

On October 6, 1896, occurred the marriage of Mr. Newman and Miss Emma J. Guard, daughter of William Guard, of New Waverly, Cass county, Indiana, and to this union there have been born five children, as follows: Katharine Pearl, born November 26, 1897; William Byron, born December 15, 1900; Mildred Pauline, born January 28, 1904; Vernice Caroline, born March 23, 1907; and Edna Lucile, born February 15, 1910. In his political proclivities, Mr. Newman is a republican, but has never been an aspirant for personal preferment in public life, his ambitions having been satisfied by his farming operations. For some years he has been connected with the local lodge of the Masonic fraternity. As a citizen, as an agriculturist, as a friend and as a neighbor he has faithfully performed the duties of life, and for this reason is entitled to a place among the representative men of his community.

DR. LAUGHLIN O'NEAL MALSBURY has been identified with the medical profession in Peru and this county since the early nineties, coming here soon after he had finished his medical training. He is one of the successful and prominent men of the profession in the county, and has a worthy place in the community in which his skill has been applied for the past twenty years.

Dr. Malsbury was born in Grant county, Indiana, on August 27, 1867, and is a son of Jacob and Helen (Dunn) Malsbury. The father was born in New Jersey and in his younger days came to Grant county, locating on a piece of wild land, which he in the course of time reclaimed and developed. He made his home on that place until death called him in 1875. Death called the mother in 1892.

Of the seven children of his parents, Laughlin O'Neal Malsbury was the youngest born, five of the number being alive today, and one of them, a sister, Sarah C., being a teacher in the East Main street school in Peru, and a brother, Jacob O., who is nine years older than the subject, has also been practicing medicine here. As a boy Laughlin O'Neal Malsbury attended the Somerset schools, graduating from the Somerset high school, and he grew to manhood on the home farm. His public school training was followed by a literary training in the Northern Indiana Normal, passing four summer terms there and teaching in the winter seasons to defray his college expenses. It was upon the advice of Dr. Laughlin O'Neal, the family physician of the Malsbury's located at Somerset, Indiana, for whom young Malsbury was named, that he was induced to train himself for the medical profession. He entered the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, now known as the University of Louisville, matriculating there in February, 1890, and in 1891 he was duly graduated with the degree of M. D. Succeeding this he attended the New York Post Graduate Schools where he took a special course in the diseases of women and children, and in 1892 he came to

Peru as house surgeon for the Wabash Railway Hospital, under the supervision of Dr. Carter B. Higgins. One year later, the young doctor, fortified by this experience, established himself in independent practice in the town of Peru, and here for the past twenty years he has been in continuous activity in his professional capacity.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Malsbury is connected professionally with a number of local concerns, among which may be mentioned the Metropolitan, Equitable and Manhattan Life Insurance companies, for whom he is medical examiner, and has been for some years. He also holds the same relative position with the Bankers' Life of Iowa, the Washington Life, the Provident Life & Trust Company, the Phoenix Life, the Reserve Loan Life and the Public Savings Company. He is official surgeon for the Union Traction Company, the Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction Company and the Winona Traction Company, all of which, in conjunction with a wide private practice along general lines, make him one of the busiest medical men in the county.

Dr. Malsbury is a member of the Miami County and the Indiana State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. In his professional capacity he has also given public service as secretary of the Board of Health of Peru, which office he now holds.

A Republican in his political convictions, Dr. Malsbury has in his own quiet way been identified with local affairs in the government of the city and county. For six years he was commendably connected with the school board of Peru as a member and it was during that service that the Seventh Street school was built, as well as the public library, both of which have added not a little to the status of the town.

Although Dr. Malsbury is and has always been a Republican in politics, he with others of the city formed a Citizens City Ticket for the purpose of selecting city officers for the city. A ticket was formed in October, 1913, being composed of Republicans, Progressives and Democrats. Dr. Malsbury was selected as the candidate for Councilman for the Second Ward of the city which polled eighty-six Democratic. He was opposed by a Democratic candidate and a Socialist candidate as well as by members of the Republican party, who claimed to have been disfranchised, but nevertheless Dr. Malsbury was elected by one hundred and eighty-two votes on November 4, 1913, and took his office January 5, 1914, as councilman of the Second ward. In addition to his professional connections in Peru, Dr. Malsbury is represented in a fraternal way by his membership in the Masonic Order, in which he has attained the thirty-second degree, and has membership in Mizpah Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, while his churchly relations are maintained as a member of the Presbyterian church of Peru.

CHARLES FRED FITE. In a business directory of Miami county, Mr. Fite would be mentioned as a postmaster and in the insurance business at Denver. A directory is often a very defective guide to the important interests and attainments of a man, as in this instance. Probably no resident of Miami county has contributed more extensively in practical acquisitions to the field of natural science than Mr. Fite. He is distinguished for his ardent love of all creatures in forest and field, has been both a discoverer and collector, and as an ornithologist ranks among the leading authorities on bird life in the country.

Brown county, Ohio, was the birthplace of Charles Fred Fite, born in that locality, December 6, 1850, one of five children, two of whom are now living. Their parents were Andrew J. and Lavina (Bingamon)



Fite, both natives of Ohio, and both descended from German stock. Andrew J. Fite followed carpentry as a trade, and from him Charles F. Fite learned that occupation which he followed for a number of years, and thus acquired a liking for exact mechanics.

As a boy he had opportunity to acquire only a limited education, since his time was principally occupied with farm work. In 1858 the family located in Madison county, Indiana, settling in the woods. There Mr. Fite lived until manhood, and followed the carpenter's trade for some years. In 1872 he transferred his residence and occupation to Galveston in Cass county, where he remained for about one year. From Cass county he came to Miami county, spending thirteen years in the city of Peru, during seven of which he was employed in the Howe factory, two years as a police officer and four years in selling nursery stock. He has been a resident of Denver since 1885, and for several years continued as a nursery stock salesman. In 1889 he was appointed postmaster of Denver, serving four and a half years under the Harrison administration, then being relieved by President Cleveland. Under President Roosevelt in 1906 he was again appointed to the office, and has held the position to the present time. In 1901 Mr. Fite began writing insurance, and has continued in this line ever since.

By instinct and also by self-training, he has always been a naturalist. He has loved ever since his boyhood the open, and wandering in the woods and field has always been his greatest delight. He has skilled himself in the observation of the life and habits of insects, animals and especially of birds. This pursuit of knowledge among wild life led him to the study of taxidermy, and gradually he began active practice in preserving in his cabinet specimens of such rare animate life as he could capture or procure. Of late years the greater part of his attention has been devoted to science. In his researches he has been led into many remote quarters of America, including different portions of Canada. He is a skillful rifle shot, but is not a hunter in the ordinary sense for the sake of killing or for the flesh of fowl, but takes particular interest in hunting game in order to better understand its nature and habits. He has killed specimens of nearly all the large game in America, including elks, deer, bear, wolves, mountain lions, and with the exception of the grizzly bear, has practically procured a representative of every individual in the larger animal creation whose habitat is in America. In addition to his own work he has been called upon to preserve the skins of lions, tigers, leopards, and almost every animal known to the American menagerie.

As already mentioned Mr. Fite is a particular authority on bird life. He has taken his greatest pleasure in following and observing the habits of this department of the animal kingdom and there is probably no naturalist in Indiana, who is better informed on bird lore than Mr. Fite. One of his valuable discoveries was the unearthing of an almost perfect tusk of the prehistoric beaver, so classified by the specialists at Earlham College. This tusk was found across the line of Miami county near Mud Lake in Fulton county. He has also discovered the remains of two mastodons in Miami county, one in Perry township and one in Union township near Deedsville. The latter was almost perfect but very few bones being missing and even the cartilage holding the joints together being yet undissolved by time and decay. This splendidly preserved specimen is now in the public museum of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Fite has also been a collector of coins, eggs, butterflies, moths, etc.

Mr. Fite is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Masonic and Independent Order of Odd Fellows fraternities. In 1871 he married Miss Ruth Stevens at Galveston, Indiana. Their one son is William A., a minister of the Christian church, whose home is now in Paducah,







"PINE GRANGE"  
COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. PHILIP MILLER

Kentucky. For his second wife Mr. Fite married Harriet Jones. No children were born to this union. His third and present wife had the maiden name of Pearl M. Rhodes, and they are the parents of six children, namely: Fred Marcus, Charles Andrew, Opal May, Virgil Roosevelt, Claude Taft and Esther Alice.

**PHILIP MILLER.** One of the citizens of Miami county, who began his career in a log-cabin home, labored with courage and industry to develop a wilderness of forest into a broad landscape of farms, and have subsequently reaped the rewards of such diligence in ample material prosperity, is Philip Miller, now a resident of the little village of Miami in Deer Creek township. Mr. Miller has lived in this county for more than sixty-five years, and that in itself constitutes a distinction among the living residents of this county. Since the settlement of the Miller family here, in the late forties, there have been successively introduced the railroad and the telegraph, the numerous other improvements in method of communication and transportation, and a vast number of facilities and comforts such as were hardly dreamed of when Philip Miller was a boy in the old pioneer home in the southern part of Miami county. He himself can remember when it required two days to make the journey from their old home to Peru, and the old road which they then followed led through the dense woods, the streams had to be forded, oxen were used to haul the wagons, and it was a very important improvement for the community when the citizens got together and put up small wooden bridges over some of the streams.

Philip Miller was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 19, 1837, a son of Jacob and Nancy (Pratt) Miller. The mother's people were from Pennsylvania. Jacob Miller and family came to the west and located in Miami county in 1848, spending the first winter in the settlement of Bunker Hill, in an old cabin. Later they secured a farm and resided there for nine years. The father died in Ohio and soon after coming to this county, the mother married for her second husband Joseph Larimer, who died several years ago.

The family was in rather poor circumstances and the early death of the father added to the burden which Philip Miller had to bear at an early age. In this state of affairs he remained at home and contributed to the support of his mother and family throughout his early youth, and on the death of his mother he continued on the old homestead which had only been rented, and by his own frugal thrift and industry paid for it and became its owner. By a life of honorable dealings and continued industry he has enjoyed a considerable degree of material prosperity, and when he retired some years ago from active farm life he owned ninety acres, which was improved in the manner of twentieth century agricultural methods, and with some excellent modern buildings. He himself had done nearly all the clearing and it continued to be his home until 1897. He then sold the original place and bought an adjoining farm of eighty acres which he still owns. However, at that time he and his family moved to Kokomo and from there came to Miami and have since lived in his attractive old home in this village.

Mr. Philip Miller served in the army as a Union soldier and was a member of Company A of the Thirty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He went out from this county in August, 1861, and on the 7th of April, 1862, was wounded at Pittsburg Landing having his left arm shot off, so that he was incapacitated and was given an honorable discharge. For a number of years he was one of the active members of the local G. A. R. Post.

Mr. Miller was first married in 1865 to Miss Amanda J. Wilson, who



died in 1874. They were the parents of one child, John L. Miller, who married Ida Poff. In 1875 Mr. Miller married Miss Elizabeth Weaver. Mrs. Miller represents an old family in Miami county, since her father David S. Weaver, came here in 1857. The Weaver home was a log cabin of two rooms and it was in this rude shelter that the family spent the first six years in this county. The father subsequently put up a comfortable frame house and added increasing improvements and facilities up to the time of his death in 1888 at Bunker Hill. When the Weaver family first settled in this vicinity the land was all covered with timber, and enough space had to be cleared from the dense wood and the thickets of underbrush before the cabin could be erected and before any land could be sown to crops. The mother of Mrs. Miller died about ten years ago. Two of her brothers served in the army, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington Weaver. Mr. and Mrs. Miller attend the German Baptist church. Mr. Miller was for three terms of two years each, assessor for Deer Creek township and for the past sixteen years has been a notary public. He has lived throughout his life according to the principles which make for upright characters, and has always enjoyed the respect which is paid to a useful and worthy member of the community. The country residence of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Miller is known as "Pine Grange."

CHARLES W. LONG. One of the prominent citizens of Jefferson township, now residing at the town of Denver, Mr. Charles W. Long has spent all his career in Miami county, and belongs to one of the families which identified themselves with this section when all the country was new.

Charles W. Long was born in Richland township, May 26, 1866, and was a son of Charles M. and Cynthia Abigail (Griswold) Long. The career of Charles M. Long, one of the venerable pioneers of Richland township, is given at proper length on other pages of this work. The nine children in the family of the parents were as follows: Clara, deceased; Maggie, wife of Alonzo Cunningham of Richland township; Archibald J., of Richland township; Effie, deceased; Charles W., Ina, widow of the late Nathan Fouts; John Foster, of Richland township; Uly C., of Richland township; Witty Chester, of Richland township.

Charles W. Long was reared on the home farm, was educated in the public school, completing his training at Denver. He started out for himself at the age of twenty-one in 1887. After getting some independent experience he was married on February 16, 1888, to Miss Myrtle Brower, who was born October 10, 1868, a daughter of Joseph and Samantha O. (Kirby) Brower. From the time of his marriage until the fall of 1908, Mr. Long was actively identified with farming enterprise, and in that time provided well for his family, and accumulated a substantial property. In that year he moved to Denver, and has since been engaged in the stock business and giving general supervision to his farm. He owns 95.86 acres in Richland township. The three children born to his first marriage are: Lyman Russell, Victor H., and Willis L. The mother, who was an active member of the Methodist church died March 1, 1904. On June 12, 1905, Mr. Long married Miss Sylvia Brower, a sister of his first wife. Mrs. Long was born July 10, 1881, and she is the seventh in a family of ten children, three sons and seven daughters, born to her parents. There are seven living. Father Brower was a native of Indiana, Miami county, and he was a farmer and also a member of the Dunkard Church. He was a successful man and a Republican. He died in Miami county. Mother Brower was a native of Miami county and she was a member of the Dunkard Church and a

resident of Denver, Indiana. Mrs. Long was educated in the common schools and was reared in Miami county. She is a member of the Methodist church and also of the Ladies Aid Society of her church. She is an able factor in the establishment of their beautiful home in Denver. She is a model housekeeper and her pretty home is the welcome haven of their many friends. Her brothers and sisters living are: Deo O., a resident of Miami county and an agriculturist. He married Miss Jerusha Kenley and they have two sons, Ivan and Avery. They are members of the United Brethren Church. Benjamin is a resident of Miami and he is an agriculturist. He married Miss Rena Fouts and has one son, Farrell. He is a member of the Progress church. Nettie, a resident of Peru, Ind. She is a modiste. She is a member of the Christian church. Mrs. Long is next in order of birth. Ethel is the wife of Geo. Sullivan, a resident of Peru, and timekeeper of the Model Gas Engine Co. They have two children, Joseph and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are members of the Baptist church. Katharine is the wife of Samuel Coffman, a resident of Ripley, Tennessee, and they have one little son, Marshall Brower. Ruth is the wife of Lester Hait, a resident of Peru, Ind.

In the campaign of 1912 Mr. Long voted with the Progressive party. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church, and he is president of the Denver Commercial Club, a position which indicates his public spirit, and his desire to serve his community in every way that he can to advance its general welfare.

**HENRY LEWIS.** The president of the Farmers Bank of Denver, since its organization, Mr. Lewis is one of the those men in whom a community places its confidence by reason of tried integrity and long and successful management in business affairs. Mr. Lewis has himself been a farmer during the greater part of his career, and has lived in this section of Miami county for more than half a century, since his childhood.

His birthplace was in Wayne county, Indiana, where he was born January 29, 1850, one of the ten children, seven of whom are now living; born to the marriage of Samuel Lewis and Mary Matchet Lewis. The father was a native of Indiana, and the mother of Virginia. Samuel Lewis being left an orphan at an early age was bound out to a Dunkard preacher, who combined farming with his spiritual vocation. With this minister and family he continued making his home until his marriage, after which he followed the cooper's trade in Hagerstown, Indiana, for a livelihood, but finally bought forty acres of land near that town, establishing his home there and taking up farming as his regular vocation. Subsequently he moved to another farm, and in 1856 in the month of April came across the country in a covered wagon, which sheltered his wife and family and many of their household goods to Miami county, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Richland township about half a mile east of the present site of Denver. This property was sold to Mr. Lewis by Eli Freestone.

On that estate Samuel Lewis continued to live engaged in farming and improving its possibilities and resources until his death, which occurred May 7, 1872, when he was fifty-six years of age. Samuel Lewis was a man of but ordinary education, owing to the circumstances of his boyhood, but was throughout his career an eager reader, and by all his circle of acquaintances was considered an unusually well informed man. He was brought up in the Dunkard religious faith, and always respected and gave his preference to that sect, though he was a member of no religious organization. His most marked characteristics were



his untiring industry, his temperate habits, and his general uprightness of moral life and character. It is a noteworthy fact that he always abstained from the use of intoxicants and tobacco in any form. He was a man whose life was a credit to the county, and to such men the present generation owes a debt of gratitude. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1905 at the age of eighty-five.

Henry Lewis, who has proved a worthy successor of his honored father, was only six years of age when the family came to Miami county. As a boy he assisted in the work of the home farm during the summer season, and as opportunity offered attended the neighboring district schools. When his father's death occurred he at once took charge of the home place, and continued its operation until November, 1906. In that year he moved into Denver, and has made his home in that thriving little village of Miami county. He became one of the group of farmers and business men in this vicinity who organized the Farmers Bank of Denver, and when the organization was completed he was the choice of the others for the office of president, and has directed the management of the bank from its beginning. It is a substantial institution, and in its deposits and general resources is an index to the fine prosperity existing in this portion of Miami county.

Mr. Lewis is a Republican in politics, and in 1896 was the nominee of his party for the office of county commissioner. The normal Democratic majority at that time ran from five to six hundred, and when it is stated he was defeated by only nine votes, his strength as a citizen and popularity are illustrated more graphically than by any other means. Mr. Lewis at the present time besides his interest in the bank at Denver, is the owner of two hundred and seventy acres of land in Miami county, but for several years has not been actively identified with farm work.

He was married May 20, 1887, to Miss Josephine Cool, a daughter of Powell Cool, a farmer of Union township. To their marriage has been born one son, Edgar. He was educated in the common schools and the Dodge School of Telegraphy, of Valparaiso, Ind., and after a year or two spent with a railroad he was one of the instructors in that school. He wedded Miss Harriett Wright, and resides in Denver, Indiana, and he manages his father's farm. He is a member of the Baptist church and his wife of the Church of The Brethren.

Mrs. Josephine Lewis was born in Miami township, Miami county, October 12, 1857, the youngest of six children, three sons and three daughters, born to her parents. The eldest is Christopher, a resident of Los Angeles, California, and a mechanic and is married. Emiline is the wife of Job Smith, a resident of Cass county, Indiana. Jonathan is a resident of Carman, Oklahoma, and he is an agriculturist and is married. Angie is the wife of James Hallecke, a resident of Rochester, New York, and an insurance man. Ira is deceased. Mrs. Lewis is next in order of birth. Her father was a native of New York and was a farmer. He was reared in his native state until young manhood and educated in the common and high schools. He located in Union township, Miami county, near the Weasaw Baptist church and he came here in 1839. He was a Whig and Republican. Both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church and he was one of the charter members. He died in 1877, aged sixty-two years. Mrs. Cool was also a native of New York and came to Miami county in 1838, when she was sixteen years of age. Bear, deer, panthers and wolves as well as plenty of Indians were here at that time. She died in 1905, aged eighty-four years. Mrs. Josephine Lewis was educated in the common schools of







“THE CRESCENT”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. ISALAH C. BROWER

her native county and taught school eleven years in Miami county and one year in Kansas. She is a member of the Baptist church.

ISAIAH C. BROWER. Among the early settlers of Miami county, Indiana, was a family by the name of Brower and ever since pioneer days members of this family have been closely associated with the history of this county and this part of the state. A characteristic of the family has been their adaptability and interest in every phase of the life of the community. The original settler, like nearly everyone else at that time was a farmer, but he was not content to follow farming alone and carried on other industries as well. Now in the person of Isaiah C. Brower, we find the same broad intelligence and varied interests. A successful farmer he has also been identified with many of the leading business interests of Denver, Indiana, for many years, and is a man highly respected for his business ability.

Isaiah C. Brower was born in a log cabin near the banks of Eel river, in Jefferson township, Miami county, Indiana, on the 10th of November, 1856. His father, John W. Brower, was born in Ohio, Preble county, and he was a son of George and Sarah (Swihart) Brower. George Brower was a farmer and a man of considerable education for those days. He was a preacher in the Dunkard church, and rendered his sermons in both German and English, according to the nationality of his congregations. He emigrated with his family to Miami county, Indiana, in the early pioneer days, and located on section 20, in Jefferson township. Here he began to clear the land and cultivate it, but he saw other opportunities in addition to the rich soil that made farming so profitable. He established a tanyard, and operated one of the old "muley" up-and-down water-power saw mills on the banks of the Weasaw creek. He also had a cane mill from which he produced sorghum molasses, supplying his own family and his neighbors with what was a real luxury in those days. He acquired considerable property before his death and was a leader in this section, dominating not only through the power of his intellect, but also through the honesty and strength of his character.

Ten children were born to George and Sarah Brower, as follows: Josiah, who is unmarried and lives on the home place; Susan, who married Aaron Fisher; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Harrison Grimes; Mary, who became Mrs. William Collet; John W.; Anna, who married Wilson Harris; Jeremiah, who was a lieutenant in the Union ranks during the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, never having married; Noah C., who was born in 1827, married Miss Flavilla Stonebarger and was a merchant in Chicago when he died on the 6th of September, 1872; Sarah, married Robert Metzker; and Phoebe, also married.

John W. Brower spent all his life as a farmer. He was a Republican in his political beliefs. He married Miss Mary Harter, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, October 25, 1830, and died April 26, 1904. To their marriage were born three children, one of whom died in infancy. The others were Isaiah C. and his sister, Minerva C., who married Solomon D. Raber.

As a boy, Isaiah C. Brower first attended the old "Brower" school near the home farm, and later attended the schools in Denver. He has followed farming and stock dealing practically all of his life, although since 1905 he has had so many other interests as to have almost entirely retired from farming. He owns about eighty acres of land in Miami county, and although not an active farmer now he is recognized as an authority on agricultural subjects.



In 1902 Mr. Brower aided in the organization of the Denver Co-operative Telephone Company, of which he was the first treasurer. He has also served as general manager of this company and for the past two years has been its president. He was a charter member of the Farmers Bank of Denver, and has been vice-president, director and auditor of this institution since its organization. He now makes his home in Denver. In politics he is a member of the Republican party and he has served one term as a member of the County Council.

Mr. Brower married Miss Mary C. Lewis, on June 18, 1890, and she died on the 15th of February, 1905. On October 26, 1909, Mr. Brower married again, his wife being Miss Rose E. Wilson, a daughter of Benjamin E. and Mary B. (Hollensshade) Wilson.

Mrs. Brower was born March 12, 1867, in Miami county, Indiana, the second in a family of four children, three sons and one daughter, born to her parents. All are living. Eldest is Chas. E., a resident of Miami county, and is a horseman. He married Miss Lelia Sturgis. James J. is a resident of Richland township and an agriculturist. He wedded Miss Idella King. Leon T. is a resident of Chicago and is an attorney at law. He was educated in common and high school and then took a scientific course at the Northwestern University. Benjamin Wilson was a native of Virginia and was an agriculturist. He also bought grain and at one time was one of the county commissioners of the county. He is a Republican and a resident of Richland township. Mrs. Wilson is a native of Preble county, Ohio, and was a little girl of ten years when she came with her parents to Indiana and both she and her husband made the trip in wagons, in pioneer style. One of Mr. Wilson's progenitors on the maternal side signed the Declaration of Independence. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. Brower was educated in the common schools and was reared in her home county. She has nobly filled her sphere as wife in counsel and advice with her husband in the establishment of their pretty home. Their residence is known as "The Crescent" and it is the abode of good cheer.

**BENJAMIN F. ZARTMAN.** The late Benjamin Franklin Zartman, long a resident of Miami county and one of the best known men within its confines at the time of his passing, was born in Perry county, Ohio, on February 26, 1839, and was a son of Peter, the grandson of Jacob and the great-grandson of Alexander I. Zartman, of German ancestry. He was reared to farm work and he followed that occupation all his life, realizing a success well worthy of the name. He married Lucy Ann Mohler on December 15, 1859, and soon after their marriage they moved to Miami county, settling on a farm two miles north of Macy. To them were born four children: Hattie B., born September 11, 1860, who married John S. Hines and lives in Peru; Clara Bell, married Grant Hoaglund, since deceased, and the widow makes her home in Missouri; Noah, born on October 21, 1863, married Herma Ford and lives at Mexico, Indiana; and William Frances, born April 7, 1865. Benjamin F. Zartman resided on his place in Allen township for the remainder of his life. He inherited the thrift and industry of his German forbears and accumulated a goodly bit of this world's material, and his wife shared in the same excellent traits of character. Both were church members, and were long regarded as among the best citizens of the county. Mr. Zartman died on September 26, 1872, a few weeks after the death of his faithful and loved wife.

William Frances Zartman was left an orphan when he was seven years of age, and his youth was necessarily passed among strangers,

knocking about from one place to another, and but little schooling coming his way. Indeed, the greater part of his practical education was gained in the poor boy's "school of hard knocks." His more adult years were passed as a farm laborer at wages, and it was here he gained his first real start in life, for it was while thus engaged that he saved money to buy his first land. He made this purchase in about 1890, and forty acres was the extent of the buy. It was located in Union township, and he held it for about two years, then sold it and moved to Mexico, where he engaged in the buying and selling of stock. This continued until about 1904, when he bought his present farm of about ninety acres, adjoining Mexico on its southern border, and he has lived here ever since, his time being devoted wholly to farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful.

Mr. Zartman is a Democrat in his political faith and has always manifested a keen and wholesome interest in the progress and development of the party, though he has not been more active in politics than the demands of good citizenship make upon him. He has always displayed a proper civic and national pride, and is one who may ever be depended upon to perform his full share in duties of citizenship.

On October 30, 1890, Mr. Zartman was married to Rosanna Bender, a daughter of John G. D. Bender of Mexico. To their union have been born the following children: Cleo Bernice, born March 27, 1891, and married to Clarence Stuber of Jefferson township; Esther Marie, born September 9, 1892; John William Franklin, born May 15, 1894; Lucy Catherine, born March 24, 1899; Mary Helen, born February 23, 1901; and John George David Zartman, who was born on November 6, 1907.

Mrs. Zartman is a member of the Baptist church of Jefferson township and is one of the most highly esteemed women of the community, where she enjoys the friendship of a host of worthy people, as does also her husband. The pretty estate of Mr. and Mrs. Zartman is known as "The Riverside Model Farm."

FRANK C. PHELPS. Among the enterprising agriculturists of Miami county, who have been progressive in inaugurating improvements on their property, and have shown their ability and progressiveness by taking advantage of modern inventions to increase their productiveness and decrease the cost of operation, Frank C. Phelps, of Clay township, holds a place in the foremost rank. Coming of an agricultural family, which has for years contributed its members to the tilling of the soil, he has made a place for himself among the substantial men of his community. The Phelps homestead, a part of which he occupies and manages is one of the best known farms in Miami county, and represents the accumulations of Mr. Phelps' late father, but the sons have through their own management and labors more than doubled the value of the estate since they took charge.

Frank C. Phelps was born April 13, 1874, in Clay township, a son of Andrew J. Phelps, and a grandson of Bissell Phelps, both of whom were born in Lewis county, New York. About 1853, Bissell Phelps came west and settled in Clay township. Here since the establishment of the family home in that year, three generations have successfully pursued the arts of agriculture and have steadily prospered. Andrew J. Phelps was born November 21, 1831, was a teacher for some years after coming to Miami county, and for sixteen years held the responsible office of trustee of Clay township. In 1863 he was elected county surveyor, but resigned before completing his term. In connection with his farm enterprise in Clay township, he also conducted a cheese factory for the convenience of the Phelps family only. His death occurred August 1.



1897. On December 21, 1869, Andrew J. Phelps married Caroline C. Wyrick, a daughter of Jacob Wyrick. To their marriage were born the following children: George Bissell, born September 18, 1871, who married Angeline Kendall; Frank C. born April 13, 1874; Albert J. born July 26, 1877; Thomas W. born January 1, 1879; and Nelson W., born December 15, 1887.

Mr. Frank C. Phelps started for himself at the age of twenty-one and first settled on eighty acres of land belonging to his father. Later he moved to Deer Creek township in this county, and took charge of the operation of a farm belonging to his father-in-law. After the death of his first wife, he returned to his present farm, a portion of the undivided estate left by his father. On this place, under his supervision have been erected a fine barn and two modern silos, and many other improvements have been introduced. Among the attractive features of this farm is his herd of fine cattle. He believes in carrying on agricultural work along scientific lines, and is regarded as one of the ablest crop and stock producers in Miami county.

In 1894 he married Miss Jennette Hardin, daughter of Tillman Hardin. Her grandfathers were Daniel Russell and William Scott. The children of their marriage are Ruth, born February 8, 1896; and LeRoy J., born February 26, 1898. His second wife was before her marriage Miss Alta May Russell, a daughter of Melby and Mary P. (Scott) Russell.

Mrs. Phelps is a native of Miami county, born August 26, 1875, she is the second of six children, three sons and three daughters, five of the number are living and all are residents of Miami county. Mr. and Mrs. Russell are living in Deer Creek township. Mr. Russell is a Republican. Mrs. Phelps was educated in the common schools. The homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Phelps is one of the beautiful and valuable farms of Clay township and the excellent buildings and silos attest the assertion.

THE MAUS FAMILY is one that has long been identified with the history of Miami county, and men of that name have wrought well in the growth and development of the county along varied lines. It is the purpose of this brief family sketch to delineate lightly something of the activities of a representative of three successive generations, beginning with the first of the name to take up the burden of development in this district. He was John Maus, a native of Germany, where he was born near Frankfort, and there was reared and married. It was in the year 1834 that he came to America with his wife and two sons,—John and George. For eight years they lived in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and it is believed that the father was a weaver by trade. At any rate, he was known to weave blankets after coming to Indiana to live, but for the most part he devoted himself to the business of farming after taking up his residence in the United States.

In the year 1842 the Maus family, led by the pioneer, John Maus, came to Indiana, settling in Miami county, on a wild section of land in Jefferson township. Here the elder son, John, and the mother, died not many years after their location. John Maus Jr., was born December 14, 1814, in Germany, and he continued to live with his parents in Pennsylvania and in Miami county after coming to this country until his death. He devoted himself to farming and possessed the proverbial thrift and industry of the German people, as a consequence of which fact he accumulated a considerable property, owning at one time something like four hundred and seventy acres of land.

In his religious convictions, John Maus Jr., was a Lutheran, the faith in which his parents had reared him, and he was a staunch Democrat. He was widely known for his inflexible honesty and was one who never shirked a responsibility. He was a credit to his native land, and he honored his adopted country in his devotion to it. He died in 1886, secure in the kindly affection and the respect of all who knew him. Mr. Maus was twice married, his first wife having been Martha Vennard, and to them were born five children, of which number there is but one living now.—William, a resident of Cass county, in Adams township. His second wife was Barbara Elizabeth Laver, and five children were likewise born of this union. Four of the five are living today. They are: Levi; Augustus and Josiah, twins; and Ida, now the wife of Ira Eikenberry, of Richland township.

Of these children, Josiah Maus was born in Jefferson township, Miami county, Indiana, on September 30, 1863, and he grew to manhood on the place he now owns, and which he has always made his home. Mr. Maus received only a common school education and on March 25, 1891, he was married to Cora E. Fisher, the daughter of Henry Fisher. Two children were born to them, of which one daughter, Mabel, still lives. The mother died on September 15, 1899, and Mr. Maus remarried on March 24, 1901, Cora E. Girard, daughter of Edward and Anna (Leedy) Girard, of Union township, becoming his wife. Mrs. Maus is a native of Miami county, born December 12, 1867, the second of five children, two sons and three daughters, born to Edward and Anna (Leedy) Girard, and all the children are living and are residents of Miami county except two sons. Frank B. is a resident of Akron, Ohio, and is with the Salvation Army. Samuel resides in Marshall county. Mr. Girard was a native of Ohio and he died June 21, 1912. He was an agriculturist. Mrs. Girard was a native of Indiana, a resident of Miami and member of the Brethren church. Mrs. Maus was educated in the common schools from which she received her diploma and she also received higher education in Ashland, Ohio, Normal and Valparaiso University. She taught eleven years in Miami county.

Mr. Maus is a Democrat in his political adherence, and his wife is a member of the Progress Brethren church. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Maus is known as "The Pine Homestead."

GEORGE EIKENBERRY AND LEVI I. EIKENBERRY. The death, in 1900, of George Eikenberry, deprived Miami county, Indiana, of one of her most successful and representative citizens. He spent his entire life as a farmer in this community, and was prominent in the religious, political, and social life of the county. His son, Levi I. Eikenberry, has also been a farmer all of his life. He has been an industrious, painstaking farmer and the success which has come to him has been due to his own efforts entirely.

George Eikenberry was born in Preble county, Ohio, May 6, 1830, on the farm of his father, Peter Eikenberry. The latter was a native of Virginia, and his wife, who was Eliza Morningstar before her marriage, was of German ancestry. George Eikenberry received his education in the common schools of his time, in Preble county, Ohio. He married Rebecca Miller in March, 1851, and shortly after this event, in the same year, migrated to Miami county, Indiana, where he bought one hundred acres of land from William Donaldson. This land was located on section 27, in Jefferson township, adjoining the Richland township line. He lived here for the rest of his days, as time passed accumulating considerable property. He at one time owned six hundred



acres of fine land. While a man whose educational advantages had been limited, he made up for the deficiency by reading and assimilation of what he read, being considered one of the best informed men in the county on all subjects of interest in his day. He was a Democrat in politics and, owing to his practical common sense and executive ability, he was three times elected as county commissioner, being elected in 1876, again in 1880 and again in 1890. In religion he was a member of the Church of the Brethren, and in the fraternal world he was for many years a prominent Mason. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, as follows: Sarah, who is the wife of Merrit Flory, of Richland township; Alice, the wife of William Fouts, of Richland township; Ira L., of Richland township; Ida, the wife of John H. Fouts, of North Manchester, Indiana; Levi I. and Albert, residents of Denver, Indiana. Mrs. Eikenberry died on January 30, 1909, she also being a member of the German Baptist church. Her husband died October 29, 1900.

Levi I. Eikenberry was born on the old homestead south of Denver, March 11, 1865. He was educated in the common schools, and grew up on the farm. On the 13th of October, 1890, he married Miss Anna Balsbaugh, a daughter of Henry and Sarah Jane (Fisher) Balsbaugh. He has followed farming all of his life, together with stock raising. He now owns about four hundred and thirty acres of land in Miami county, practically all of which he has acquired by his own efforts.

Four children have been born to Mr. Eikenberry and his wife, namely: Vernon G., Orville R., Clinton H. and Walter B. Vernon G. received a common school education and diploma, and also spent some time in the high school. He is a farmer in Wabash county. Orville R. an agriculturist in Union township, Miami county, wedded Miss Lenora Martindale and they have one little son, Joseph Levi. Clinton H. is at home. He received his diploma from the public school and is a farmer. Walter B. is in the eighth grade. Mrs. Eikenberry is a native of Miami county, born November 14, 1870. She is the eldest of ten children—four sons and six daughters—and all living, her mother being the only one of the family deceased. Mrs. Eikenberry has been an able factor in establishing her pretty home and the rearing of her children. Both Mr. Eikenberry and his wife are members of the Church of the Brethren, and in politics Mr. Eikenberry is a Democrat. The Eikenberry estate is known as "The Glendale Stock Farm," and is located eight miles northwest of Peru, Indiana.

**THE GRAFT FAMILY.** Three generations of the well known Graft family have been identified with the agricultural activities of Miami county since the advent of Abraham Graft into the county in October, 1851. That worthy pioneer was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on November 23, 1813, a son of David and Anna (Grove) Graft, both of German ancestry, and farmers by vocation, as have been representatives of the family for many generations. When Abraham Graft was about six years old he moved with his parents to Virginia, and from there, in 1823, he came to Preble county, Ohio, where he settled down to a life on the farm. He married there Miss Anna Morningstar in 1838, the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Swisher) Morningstar, and to them four children were born—two of them owning Ohio as their natal state, and two Indiana.

In October, 1851, as has already been stated, the family came by wagon to Miami county. Mr. Graft brought one load of household goods with the family and, when he arrived in Miami county, assisted George Fisher in the planting of his wheat crop. Mr. Fisher, in return

for the courtesy, as was the custom in those days and still prevails in many farming districts, repaid his neighbor by returning to Ohio with Mr. Graft and helping him to move more of his household goods. Thus was accomplished the family exodus, with its household gods, from Preble county, Ohio, to its present location.

The children born to Abraham Graft and his wife were as follows: George, now deceased; David, living in Miami county; John T., who died in 1899; Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Fike; Lydia, who married W. M. Turnipseed; and Mary, the wife of Robert Miller. The mother of Abraham Graft died in Preble county, Ohio, and his father subsequently came to Miami county, Indiana, dying here of cholera in 1857.

Abraham Graft made his home in Miami county until his death. He was brought up in the faith of the Church of the Brethren, and died strong in his belief and hope in the future. While physically rather under the medium in size and strength, he more than supplemented that deficiency by his extraordinary mentality. Strong in his convictions, he followed a well-defined plan of life, and succeeded far above the average, not only in the acquisition of material wealth, but in the establishment of an honored and honorable name. During his later years Mr. Graft came to be known as one of the wealthiest men in the county. He died on December 6, 1903. His faithful wife, who shared in all his trials as well as in his successes, bequeathing to her children the full richness of the beautiful Christian character that was hers, died on June 18, 1888.

George Graft, one of the children of Abraham Graft and his wife, was born on October 24, 1839, in Preble county, Ohio. He came to Miami county with his parents as a boy of twelve years, and he assisted his father in the work of clearing and improving the home place—no small task in those early days, when such work was accomplished almost entirely with the hands. He married, in 1869, Miss Elmira Jones, born on July 8, 1841, and a daughter of Nathan and Anna (Cox) Jones, of Cass county, Indiana. Succeeding this important event in his life, George Graft engaged in farming on the place now owned by his son, Leroy Graft, in Section 36. He became known in the community as one of the most strenuous workers there to be found, and it was, in fact, this hard work and grilling exposures in all weather that broke down his health and strength, never of the sturdiest, and brought about his untimely end. He died on October 13, 1882, at the early age of forty-three years.

In the later years of his life Mr. Graft became a member of the Church of the Brethren, with which his parents and grandparents had been affiliated. His widow survived him until February 20, 1902. They were the parents of six children, two of whom died in infancy and the remaining four reaching years of maturity. They are Leroy, Walter, Anna, the wife of Monroe Martin, and Blanche, the wife of Marion Swank.

Leroy Graft was born on July 27, 1871, and has always made his home on the old place where he was born, here carrying on the work of the farm. His mother, after the death of her husband, kept the place intact and carried it on successfully for twenty-two years, Leroy Graft coming into ownership of the farm upon her demise. He now owns 170 acres, which he operates in a general way, including some rather extensive stock breeding, and is one of the more successful and prosperous operators of the community.

On November 22, 1897, Mr. Graft was married to Miss Myrtle L. English, the daughter of William and Rosanna (Mutchell) English. No children blessed their union, but Mr. and Mrs. Graft are rearing



a boy, Gerald B. Howell, a second cousin of Mr. Graft. They are prominent and popular in Jefferson township, worthy successors of two generations of the family who reflected credit upon the name and added honors to themselves in Miami township as residents thereof.

CHARLES H. BLACK, sole owner of the flouring mill and the mill site on the Eel river at Mexico, and one of the prosperous men of his community, was born in Wabash county, Indiana, on November 14, 1869. He is one of the two children born to his parents, William H. and Ann Elizabeth (Smith) Black, the other child being a daughter, Florence Vida.

William H. Black was a farmer, and is still employed in that enterprise. He accompanied his parents from Eaton, Ohio, to Miami county, Indiana, in 1843, when he was a babe of two years old. His parents, who were Thomas and Barbara (Croft) Black, settled on a tract of land in Richland township, in the woods bordering upon the Wabash county line, and here he grew to manhood. During the Civil war he served eighteen months of the last half of the war as a member of the Second Indiana Cavalry. Shortly after his return from the scenes of battle, he married, and eventually bought land in Wabash county, crossing the line from Miami county, where he had lived so long, and there he and his wife yet live. One of their children, Florence V., married Elmer E. Mull, a school teacher of Miami county. She bore her husband two sons and two daughters and died in November, 1911. The only living child of William H. Black and his wife is Charles H. Black, whose name heads this review.

Charles H. Black was reared in Wabash county on the home farm and finished his schooling at Roann high school, taking a great interest in the sciences, in which he is informed to date. He started life in the milling business, but the panic of '73 opened up new avenues of life, and he bought eighty acres of land in Richland township, paying thirty dollars an acre for the same. It was while operating this farm that he conceived the idea of using a specially formed steel connecting rod in the use of concrete—a specially prepared and reinforced concrete—particularly applied to bridge work. After a considerable thought he had patented the "Loop hook bridge system," and this has been introduced and tried out extensively on railroads and in county work, with a splendid prospect of becoming universal in its use in these fields of enterprise. The dam on the Eel river at Mexico is particularly noteworthy as an illustration of the use of this idea.

In 1911 Mr. Black became the owner of the mill site and the Mexico Roller Mills, and is operating this at present. He is also president of the Mexico Woolen Mills, organized in 1912, and one of the thriving concerns of the place. He is now building a power plant and will be prepared to furnish power and electric lighting for the entire community and for miles around.

On September 25, 1895, Mr. Black was married to Miss Emma J. Ward, daughter of Charles and Sarah (Hersey) Ward, commissioner of Miami county. They have two children: Frances Elizabeth and Loren Thomas.

Mr. Black is a Progressive in his political inclinations, and takes only the interest of a good citizen in the politics of his community, as a general thing.

JOHN W. SWAFFORD. There are few older families in Indiana than the Swaffords. Their home was established within the boundaries of the present state about the close of the eighteenth century. Five or six



*Original Photo.*

RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN W. SWAFFORD





years passed before Indiana was organized as a territory, and the father of John Swafford was a boy about sixteen years old before Indiana became a state. John Swafford has for a number of years been the owner of one of Clay's township good farms, is a man who has won all his prosperity by hard and effective work, and enjoys the reputation of a citizen whose obligations to the community and to his fellowmen are promptly met, and whose enterprise and influence are valued factors in the community.

John Swafford who is an Indianian himself, and whose father and grandfather before him were natives of old Indiana, was born in Union county, Indiana, June 5, 1848. Isaac Swafford, his grandfather, was a resident of Indiana at the beginning of the last century, for it was on April 23, 1818, in Union county that Archibald Swafford, the father of John, was born. That was one of the first births of white children in that county. Archibald Swafford was twice married. His first wife was Sarah Burroughs, daughter of Bartley Burroughs. She was born in Wayne county, Indiana, and it was in that county that she and Archibald Swafford were married. The children of their union were: William, Mary E., Isaac, James and Rees, twins, Bartley, John, Albert W., Archibald, Ellen and Emmett E. Both James and Rees died in the Union army during the Civil war. The father married for his second wife, Elizabeth Tappen, and by her had one child, Homer.

John Swafford started out in life without financial help, beginning at the lower round of the ladder of life and it was as a result of hard work and careful management that he has acquired a good farm and a comfortable home. The only money he ever inherited was sixty-six dollars which came to him from his grandmother's estate. His schooling also was limited. His education has been gained chiefly through business and social channels—the market, the neighbor's fireside, the lodge room and the church—these have contributed to his stock of useful information, and his own practical experience has done the rest. The first furniture he bought, a hundred dollars' worth, he had the misfortune to lose by fire before it was paid for, so he had to go in debt again and start all over.

From Union county, Mr. Swafford came to Cass county which was his home for a period of twenty-three years. From there he came to Miami county, and settled on a farm, where he now lives. This farm comprises ninety-two acres, and its buildings have all been remodeled since his ownership. The cultivation of his land and the management of his crops indicate the progressive agriculturist, and the superficial indication of his enterprise is the silo that flanks the barn.

At Liberty, in Union township, Indiana, November 29, 1871, John Swafford and Harriet Dunlap, daughter of Eugene Dunlap, were united in marriage, and their happy union has now continued for more than forty years, almost a half century, and has been productive in a family of children, who under their loving care have also taken worthy parts in the world. These children are Harry, born September 3, 1872; Ella, born October 18, 1876, the wife of William H. Peters, of Miami county, Indiana; Frank, born May 11, 1882, who married a Miss Davidson, of Danville, Illinois; Dessa, who was born November 4, 1888, the wife of Fred Garrison. Mrs. Swafford is a native of Hamilton county, Indiana, born December 3, 1854, the only child born to her parents, both of whom are now deceased. Mr. Dunlap was a Republican and voted for Fremont. The mother was a member of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Swafford was educated in the common schools and has done her part in the rearing of her family.

When Mr. and Mrs. Swafford began their married life their cash



capital did not exceed ten dollars in ready cash, but the young couple bravely began to establish a home, and in 1913 we find the "Brook View Stock Farm" with excellent buildings, including silo, and highly cultivated acres, one of the handsome homes of the county. They also have hosts of friends who well know them for their sterling integrity and character. They have reared their children so they are a credit to their parents as well as their native county. Mr. Swafford is a member of the Crescent Masonic Lodge, No. 280 of Miami, Indiana.

Their son, Frank, served three years as a soldier in the Philippine Islands and received his honorable discharge and is now a resident of Franklin Park, Chicago, Illinois.

**GEORGE SMITH.** A resident of Miami county for nearly half a century, George Smith is now living retired at his home near Peru, in Washington township, but for nearly thirty years was an active and energetic farmer, and cultivated the soil and managed his business in such a way as to bring the largest returns for his labor. He has been honored officially, and is one of the most highly respected men of his township.

George Smith is a native of Marion county, Indiana, where he was born October 27, 1835. His father was John Smith, and his grandfather was Daniel Smith. The maiden name of his mother was Nancy Dabaney, a daughter of William Dabaney. On the mother's side the ancestry is French, and German on the paternal side.

Mr. Smith was reared and educated in this state and first located in Miami county in 1863. His father in that year had died in Marion county and, after settling up the estate, they came to Miami county. He first engaged in farming in Washington township, on a tract of land that was all in the timber. A log house and a stable constituted the improvements when he took possession, and he spent about a year in that log house. From here he moved into Howard county, which was his home for five years; then went out to southwestern Missouri, it being his inclination at the time to grow up with the new country of the west. After one year of that experience he returned to Miami county, and here bought one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township. About one-half of this acreage was cleared of the woods and brush and he devoted much of his labors to clearing up and improving the rest of it. In 1886 he replaced the old house and some of the out-buildings with new and, under his management and supervision, the place became a model homestead. This continued to be his home for twenty-seven years, and he then sold out and moved to Peru. Since then he has lived a retired life. For two terms, from 1882 to 1886, Mr. Smith served as trustee of Washington township.

In 1867 he married Alice J. McGinnis, a daughter of James McGinnis. Their wedding occurred in Peru, although the marriage license was issued in Kokomo, Howard county. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one daughter, Mary Violet, who married E. C. Beck, and she lives at home with her parents.

**WILLIAM L. RHEIN.** For nearly half a century Mr. Rhein has been identified with Miami county, where he began his career as a struggling young man, working hard to pay for some land which was to be the basis of his vocation, and in this county he has subsequently won prosperity and has lived with honor for many years.

William L. Rhein is a native Indianan, having been born in Tippecanoe county, December 25, 1853. The family was originally German, but have been residents in America for several generations. Its first

settlement was made in Pennsylvania, and the paternal grandfather owned the land at the city of Reading on which the Hessian soldiers camped during the Revolutionary war. Daniel Rhein, father of William L., was a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, and as a young man learned the cabinet-maker's trade. In 1835 he came west, before there was a single railroad and when the highways themselves were of the most primitive type. He was one of the first workers in wood and cabinet-makers to locate in the little town of Lafayette, Indiana, and there he found prosperity in following his regular trade. After locating at Lafayette he married Sarah Logan, and they became the parents of three children, namely: William L.; Anna D., who married Michael Ginney and who now lives in Miami county; and one who died in infancy. Both the parents died at Lafayette and were there buried.

William L. Rhein made his home in Lafayette until he was ten years of age, and at that time came to Miami county and began living with his uncle, Isaac Crane, who was a farmer in Washington township. In this way he spent most of the years of his youth on a farm and in the environment of the country, his total length of residence with his uncle, Mr. Crane, being for seventeen years. Owing to the deficiencies of public school education during his boyhood and also to his private circumstances, he had only limited schooling as a boy, and in later years has remedied these deficiencies by extensive reading.

The practical beginning of his substantial success was in 1876, when he and his sister bought sixty acres of low, heavily timbered land in Clay township. They paid Mr. Crane twenty dollars an acre for this tract. In 1876 Mr. Rhein started out for himself and moved upon the land to begin its cultivation. By strenuous labor he cleared the heavy timber from the soil, and also built a tile factory which he operated with considerable success until 1900. It was by the gradual process of hard work, capable management, and the passing of years that substantial success finally came to him. He added to his real estate holdings until he and his sister owned two hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Rhein is still owner of one hundred and sixty acres of first-class agricultural land in Washington and Clay townships.

On May 30, 1888, he married Adelia B. Sweney, daughter of James Sweney, who was a native of Ireland, and for a number of years a farmer of Miami county. In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Rhein first transferred their residence to Peru, but returned to the farm in Washington township after a few months and continued to make that place their home until the spring of 1907. Since then Peru has been their permanent place of residence. To Mr. and Mrs. Rhein were born seven daughters, namely: Carrie; Helen, now Mrs. Oliver Goodwin; Anna; Frances; Ruth; Alice, and Florence. Mr. Rhein, up to the campaign of 1912, was an independent Republican in politics, and usually supported the grand old party. In 1912, with the division in political creeds, he cast aside his old party traditions and voted the Progressive ticket. He himself adheres to no religious faith, but his wife and children are members of the St. Charles Catholic church.

**JACOB CASPER.** Now serving his third term as one of the board of county commissioners of Miami county, Jacob Casper has been a resident of this county for more than forty years, and has made a very successful and exceptional record as a developer of farms, having applied his energetic management to a number of run-down places in this county, having improved them to the best standards of local agriculture, and then sold out at a large profit over his original investment. Mr. Casper is therefore a man of enterprise, has always stood high among his fellow-



citizens, and their confidence in him is testified in his repeated election to the most important administrative office of the county.

Jacob Casper is a native of Ohio, born in Stark county March 15, 1849. His parents were George and Eliza (Ulman) Casper. His father came from Germany to Ohio, where he settled during his early life, and lived there a prosperous and substantial farmer, retiring from the active labors of his career about ten years before his death.

Jacob Casper received his early education in Stark county, lived at home with his father, and gained many lessons of practical experience as a farmer, and in 1881, in the month of April, arrived in Miami county. He started with little capital and, after several years of hard work, got his first farm. For a number of years he made a practice of buying places which were considered failures as farms and, by introducing a good deal of hard work, practical business management, and investing in the necessary facilities for improvements, he soon succeeded in making the land productive and profitable, and then sold out at a price which represented a fine profit for his investment and trouble. In this way he has been owner of some four or five different farms in the county. His present place has been occupied by himself and family for about ten years. He has spent much time and money in improving it, and now has one of the best estates in Erie township. The dwelling was on the land when he bought it, but he has remodeled it, and has put up several smaller buildings, and also built a new barn. All the fences on the farm have been set since he took possession. In this estate are one hundred and forty-three acres, and in Perry township he is the owner of two hundred and twenty acres, with fair improvements.

On January 13, 1883, Mr. Casper married Caroline Hostettler, a daughter of Jacob Hostettler. They have a fine family of seven children, who are mentioned, as follows: Ida May married John Holmes, and their three children are Herbert C., John F., and Verne E.; Oda is the wife of I. N. Richer, and their two children are Margaret R. and Rachel C.; Harry married Roxie M. Stoner, and is the father of two children, Robert G. V. and Bernice E.; Iris Grace married Kirt Boswell, and they have a boy, Casper M.; Vere F. is the wife of Ralph W. Groves; Walker L. married Mary Wilson, and Curtis C. is unmarried and lives at home.

Mr. Casper is a faithful member of the United Brethren church, having served as superintendent and class leader, and also as trustee and chairman of the board of his church. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge of Peru, No. 63. In politics a Republican, he has for a number of years been one of the local leaders of his party, and by his public-spirited citizenship has done much for the welfare and the practical administration of local government in this county. In 1904 occurred his first election to the office of county commissioner. His majority at that time was five hundred and seventeen, while Roosevelt polled five hundred and twenty votes from the county. In 1908 he was re-elected, and in 1912, which was the great Democratic year, he was elected by a majority of seventeen.

CLAUDE TRIPPEER. A young farmer and business man of Washington township and Peru, Mr. Trippeer is a native son of this county, and has spent practically all his years within its borders. On reaching manhood he started out to win a position in life, having little capital and only his own resources to depend upon, and has succeeded and found a substantial position in his community.

Claude Trippeer was born in Washington township March 5, 1876,







PUGSLEY  
PHOTO

“SOUTH VIEW FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JOEL SWIGERT

a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Lockridge) Trippeer. The paternal grandfather was John Trippeer. The father was born in the state of Ohio, and came to Miami county with the paternal grandfather many years ago. Claude Trippeer obtained a good education by attending the local public schools and a business college in Peru, and remained at home until his marriage. His father was engaged in farming and in the lime business, and continued active in affairs up to the time of his death, which occurred in January, 1908. The father was a devout Christian, believing in practical religion, with only a very little part in civic affairs. He attended strictly to his own business and always stood high in the community where he lived and where he had many friends. The mother passed away March 9, 1903. Mr. Claude Trippeer first began his career as a farmer and continued in that line until about 1912. Since then he has engaged extensively in contracting and building, and for some time carried on that occupation in connection with his farming. At the present time he devotes all his time to general contracting.

Mr. Trippeer in 1908 was elected to the office of trustee of Washington township, taking office in 1909, and being elected for the regular four-year term which then prevailed. Since the new law has been adopted, his term has been extended for six years. Mr. Trippeer is an active Democrat in politics, and his father was also of the same political faith. Mr. Trippeer attends the Methodist church with his family.

In June, 1902, he married Miss Grace L. Jackson, a daughter of George and Mary (Shively) Jackson. Her paternal grandfather was John Jackson and his wife was Frances Roll. Her maternal grandfather was Samuel Shively. Mr. Trippeer's father died December 13, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Trippeer are the parents of one child, Georgine, born May 7, 1903.

**JOEL SWIGERT.** Of good German parentage, Joel Swigert of Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, shows the sturdy qualities that have made that race nation builders. He has gained his present prosperity by industry and careful management, and is known in his township as an honorable man and a successful farmer, having given his entire life to agricultural pursuits.

Joel Swigert was born in Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, on the 9th of April, 1848, a son of William Swigert. The latter was born in the same house in which his son was born, on November 1, 1813. The foundation of the house which is still standing in Pennsylvania, was built of straw and clay, for this was before the days of plaster and cement, and it is one of the old landmarks of the region. The great grandparents of Joel Swigert were born in Germany, his mother's maiden name being Elizabeth Burkhiser.

Joel Swigert grew up in his native state and there received his education which amounted to attendance at the district school for a period of ten months. However, although his opportunities were meagre, he made the most of them, and has added to his store of information by reading and observation. He came to Miami county, Indiana, in 1869, arriving on the 19th of January. He first worked by the month, commencing with no money capital but soon married and then moved to St. Joseph county, Indiana. Here he remained for five years, after which he settled in Fulton county. Eleven years were spent in this county and then he returned to Miami county and settled on the farm which he now owns. At the time there were only two small buildings on the place, and during the years which he has spent here he has added a number, all of which are well built and the whole place is attractive and well



cared for. He has cleared quite a bit of his timber land and has done considerable fencing and ditching, all with his own hands.

The father of Mr. Swigert was a member of the Reformed church and Mr. Swigert, himself, used to belong to the Lutheran church. He was also at one time a member of the Granger association, but he has never received a public office nor accepted public money for any of the services which he has rendered the people. He has severed all connections with politics, however, and no longer takes any active interest in such matters.

Mr. Swigert was married on the 21st of September, 1873, to Amanda DeWald, a daughter of William and Judith (Lutz) DeWald. Mrs. Swigert was born in Miami county February 25, 1854, and it was here that they were married. They have one child, Irvine W., who was born on the 26th of December, 1876, in South Bend, Indiana. He married Catherine A. Hoover, a daughter of Joseph Hoover, and they have one child, Luther M., who was born on the 7th of February, 1905. The pretty homestead of Mr. Swigert is called "South View Farm."

JACOB A. CUNNINGHAM. Born in the township of his present residence and on land which at that time was comprised in his father's possession. Mr. Jacob A. Cunningham of Washington township bears an unusual relation to the soil in this locality and presents in his history elements of unusual interest. He is one of comparatively few living residents of Miami county who attended one of the old-fashioned log schoolhouses as a boy, and during his career he has witnessed most of the improvements which have transformed this county from its primitive condition to one of the most representative sections of the state.

Jacob A. Cunningham was born in Washington township on the thirtieth of June, 1859, a son of Andrew and Sarah (Mason) Cunningham. His paternal grandfather was Thomas Cunningham and his maternal grandfather was John Mason. His father was twice married, and by his first wife had the following children: Mary E., who married Joseph Miller; John, who died in infancy, as also another, who died before receiving a baptismal name; and Joseph, who married Mary Anderson. For his second wife the father married Sarah (Mason) Rhodes, widow of John Rhodes. She was the mother of one child by her first marriage, Franklin Rhodes. The children of the second marriage of Mr. Cunningham with Sarah Mason Rhodes were: J. A. David, who died at the age of five years; Barbara E., who married John Fox; Lucinda, who died at the age of seven; and Apalona, who married George Mosely.

Andrew Cunningham, the father, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania; went from his native state into Ross county, Ohio, and in 1851 or 1852 migrated to Miami county, locating in Washington township, about half a mile east of where his son, J. A., now has his home. It was on that original homestead that the son J. A. was born. The father's home contained one hundred and twenty acres and the land at the time he occupied it was mostly in timber. There was a frame house and a log barn, and the land had been originally entered from the government by a man named Baker.

The schooling which Mr. Jacob A. Cunningham received was limited, owing to the fact that public school facilities everywhere in the state at that time, with the possible exception of the larger cities, were far below those furnished in the district schools of the present era. The school term lasted only three months, and during the other months of the year the boys worked at home on the farm. Mr. Cunningham attended such a school every winter until he was sixteen years of age.

He recalls the old schoolhouse in his neighborhood as a log structure, but somewhat advanced in its furnishings beyond the earliest log schoolhouses which are usually described in pioneer communities. The desks were made of broad planks, fashioned almost in the form of a bench and set in front of the bench upon which the pupils sat. This bench was another plank similar to the kind used for the desks, and was an improvement over the seats which an earlier generation of children enjoyed; this had the plank nailed at the back, so that the tired body of the boy or girl had some support other than bending over on its knee. When Mr. Cunningham was twenty-six years of age he married and then located on his present farm of one hundred and eighty acres. The principal buildings on this estate were erected by his father, but Mr. Cunningham has put up many outbuildings for grain and stock and implements, and has done a great deal of clearing and fencing. In this section of Miami county Mr. Cunningham has acquired considerable reputation for stock raising, and breeds high-grade shorthorn cattle for market purposes. He has the entire confidence of his fellow-citizens. He was made a member of the county advisory board, but resigned from the board and was duly elected a representative of Miami county in the Indiana State Legislature, and filled his office with credit to his constituents and home county. He and his family usually attend the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Cunningham's people were of Swiss and German stock, and all of them were members of the Lutheran church. Her father was a Mason of high standing and had one of the first Masonic funerals in Miami county. Three of his mother's brothers—Samuel, Daniel and Michael Mason—were soldiers in the Civil war. On October 28, 1886, Mr. Cunningham married Miss Ida E. Meyers, a daughter of Jacob Meyers and Louise (Weckler) Meyers. Her father died about 1860 and her mother in 1893. The Meyers family came to Miami county from Ohio about 1848, locating in Washington township, where Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham were married. Mrs. Cunningham had six brothers and two sisters, the names of all the children being as follows: Mary L., who married Jerry Hoffine; Jacob, who married Elizabeth Meyers; Samuel, who married Sarah O'Brien; John, Edward, Lucinda and Franklin, all of whom died in infancy; Charles, who died at the age of fifty-seven; and John, who lives in Peru and is a bachelor.

**WILLIAM A. SUTTON.** A resident of Miami county for nearly sixty-five years, Mr. Sutton has had many varied relations with the county and its people during these years, and is one of the most respected families of Washington township. Mr. Sutton is a veteran of the Civil war, and is a self-made man, whose rewards have always been worthily won.

William A. Sutton was born in Champaign county, Ohio, February 14, 1843, a son of John Daniel and Mary (Long) Sutton. The maternal grandparents were Robert and Mary (Hassard) Long. The parents moved to Miami county in 1847, locating in Peru township, where the father was engaged in farming what was known as the Boone farm. He remained there as a renter for one year, then moved to Pipe Creek township, which was his home for a number of years, living on two places and clearing off the timber on both farms in that township. He then moved into Washington township, locating on the creek, on what was known as the Frick farm. From there he returned to Peru township, renting the Daniel R. Bearss farm. He again returned to Washington township and lived for some time on a farm owned by H. C. Mosely, later to the farm of Orlando Mosely in the same township, and



while there the mother passed away and thus the home was broken up. The father then lived with his son for eight years and then with a brother, N. W. Sutton, in Clay township, where he passed away at the end of seventy-three years of useful and honorable life. The father was in many senses a pioneer, and his labor was extremely useful in clearing out the forests and making the land habitable and cultivable. He was possessed of religious inclinations, and for forty years was an active member of the Baptist church.

Mr. William A. Sutton left home on the 9th of April, 1861, and entered Company B of the Thirteenth Indiana Infantry, this being the first company which left Peru for the service of the Union. Few men in Miami county, equaled in length or fidelity the service of Mr. Sutton as a soldier. He was in the army from the date of his first enlistment until 1865, a period of four and a half years. The officers of that pioneer company were Captain John M. Wilson, First Lieutenant William H. Shields, Second Lieutenant William F. Wallick, and First Sergeant Henry Sterns.

After his return from the army as a veteran Union soldier, Mr. Sutton began work in a sawmill, continuing in that line for eighteen months. He was then married and he and his bride began housekeeping on a rented farm, where they remained one year. He next moved to Clay township, and in 1868 made a trip out west. During his residence in Clay township he worked as miller at McGrawsville, and then for two years was employed in what was known as the Chicago mills in Clay township. He next moved to Wabash county, and kept a boarding house for sixteen months near North Manchester. Mr. Sutton, after this variety of experience, moved on to a farm owned by H. C. Mosely, and lived and farmed there for fourteen years. After that he bought the place where he now has his home, and this farm has furnished a good living and an attractive home for himself and family for the past twenty-four years. The present buildings on the place have all been renewed since he took possession and in every way the Sutton homestead is worthy of comparison with any of the country places in Miami county.

In 1895 Mr. Sutton was appointed doorkeeper in the House of Representatives in Indianapolis. In the same year he was appointed to a position in the Northern Indiana Prison at Michigan City, and discharged the duties of his position for four years. He was then elected coroner of Miami county, and such was the esteem in which he was held that he never had to file a bond. Mr. Sutton owns a nice little farm of twenty acres, and is living there in the comforts of life and spending his declining years in quiet.

He was reared in the Baptist faith, and is affiliated with Crescent Lodge No. 280 of the Masonic order at Miami town. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Sutton was married June 6, 1867, to Rebecca Kessler, daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Baltimore) Kessler. The six children born to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sutton are mentioned as follows: Minnie May, who married Benjamin Sherrick; Charles Homer, who married Pearl Clemmons; David Oliver, who married Rosie Shivley; Ursula, wife of John Laninger; Edith M., wife of Edgar S. Swovelend; and John Henry, who is unmarried. The daughter, Ursula, died August 11, 1904.

**JAMES P. BINKERD.** One of the successful farmers and well known citizens of Butler township, James P. Binkerd, is a native son of this locality, and is one of the comparatively few residents still living in Miami county who were products of the old-fashioned log schoolhouse.

He went to school in such a building, sat on a slab bench, walked on the puncheon floors of the building, made use of the other primitive furnishings, including the old-fashioned quill pen, and both inside and outside played the sports common to the boys of that period. Though his education consisted largely of the three R's, and his attendance at school was easily limited to three months in the winter, he has acquitted himself worthily of the duties and responsibilities of mature manhood, and has not only prospered in material circumstances, but has reared up a sturdy new generation of able men and women who are a credit to themselves and to the county.

James P. Binkerd was born in Butler township, September 2, 1851, a son of George and Mary E. (Miller) Binkerd, and a grandson of John Binkerd, the maternal grandfather having been John Miller. The father and grandfather were both residents of Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, where the father was born. The latter in 1844 came overland to Miami county. He was a poor young man, and had no possessions in the world except what he carried with him. He first settled in Butler township, where he entered one hundred and twenty-eight acres and received his patent from the government. This land was all in timber, and in a small clearing under the trees he built a log cabin, fastening its doors with wooden pins, and with his own ax and saw manufacturing the rough furniture which comprised its equipment. A couple of times, after locating in Miami county, he went back on foot to Pennsylvania. In his log cabin he lived and kept "batch" for several years, and by working for other farmers in the neighborhood earned the money which enabled him to pay for his place, at the regular purchase price of one dollar and a quarter per acre. Afterwards he married, and he and his bride commenced housekeeping in the log cabin. Later, as life became easier and resources more plentiful, he built a house of hewed logs, and in that house made his home until 1860. In 1860 he built a frame house, which was quite a pretentious mansion for that time. Its timbers were about one foot in thickness, and was so constructed that it might last for generations. In the last dwelling both father and mother died, and their bodies now rest in the Butler cemetery. The father was eighty years of age, and the mother eighty-four when death came to them. They were both members of the Presbyterian church.

James P. Binkerd grew up in the environments which have been briefly described, and attained his education in the schoolhouse. In order to reach that temple of learning he had to pass, both mornings and evenings, through the dense woods which separated the home from the schoolhouse. He did not begin his attendance at school until he was eight years of age and, after that, only three or four months in the year, and as soon as he was old enough he gave his active assistance in the work of the farm. He performed a large share of the labor in clearing up the old homestead. At the age of twenty-eight he started out for himself, and located on his present farm in 1879. In Butler township he owns one hundred and twenty-eight acres, and of this he inherited from his father ninety acres, and has bought the rest. On his farm he has practically done all the improving, the buildings are all the results of his construction, and he has provided a home which is both comfortable and attractive, a fine place in which to spend his later years. About the dwelling house is a nice orchard, and he raises enough fruit for the family use. Mr. Binkerd is a believer in religion, and attends church occasionally. At the present time he is serving on the township advisory board, having been four years in the office, and has always been a Democratic voter.



In December, 1879, Mr. Binkerd married Martha McDowell. The two children of their marriage are: Anna Belle, who married John Kader, Jr.; and William, who married Lillie Eller. The mother of these children died, and Mr. Binkerd married, for his second wife, Kate McDowell, a daughter of Alfred and Jane McDowell of Carroll county. There are no children by the second union.

Mr. Binkerd is a true, typical, pioneer son of Miami county, Indiana. Besides attending the old log schoolhouse, described above, he remembers distinctly of seeing crowds of the Indians in the neighborhood; he has seen droves of wild turkeys and plenty of foxes, and has broken many an acre of ground with the ox team, and attended many of the log rollings and the "frolics" which followed. He is a gentleman whose memory of the past is vivid, and he can recall the early epoch of the history of Miami county, which would be very interesting to the boys and girls of today. He has in his possession one of the old parchment deeds, which is a relic of the past and one of the few to be found in 1913.

**WILLIAM WEBB YOUNCE.** In the pioneer days of Butler township, more than seventy years ago, the Younce family was established at the little community then known as Peoria, now known as Reserve. The older members of the family were industrious, law-abiding citizens, and performed a very useful service to the community in the early days as blacksmiths, their shop having been one of the first establishments at the little village just named. Mr. W. W. Younce is a representative of the third generation of the name in this county, and in his turn has pursued a life of honorable activity, and at the present time conducts the old homestead and has one of the best improved and most valuable places in Butler township.

William Webb Younce was born on the farm where he now lives, April 28, 1866. His father was John Younce, and his grandfather, Joseph Younce. John Younce married Irena Smith, a daughter of William Smith. She died when her son, W. W., was an infant. The father came to Miami county in 1842 from North Carolina, in company with his father. He was born in Ashe county, North Carolina, and was a young man when he located at the community then known as Peoria. Both he and his father were blacksmiths, and they set up a shop which they conducted for several years. All the settlers in that neighborhood brought their plows and other implements to the Younce blacksmith shop for repairs and sharpening. John Younce, the father, soon married, and then settled on what is now known as the old Slocum farm, in Wabash county, renting that place for two or three years. He then returned to Miami county and bought the old homestead in Butler township. All the children were born on this farm, and it was the residence of the father until his death, which occurred October 24, 1903. He was a man highly respected in his community, and lived such a career as had great usefulness to both his family and fellow-citizens. When he first took possession of the homestead in Butler township, the land was covered with wood, and the first building he erected was a little cabin. In that cabin all the children were born, and some of them have memories and recollections of the time when the family lived in a house of logs. Later the father put up a more commodious building, and at the same time gave his industry to the clearing up of the land, a task in which the children also assisted. He was a man who believed in the advantages of education, and gave his children opportunities for acquiring the best possible training in schools of that time.

After the death of his father, Mr. W. W. Younce took charge of the







“GREEN LAWN”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. EDWARD D. SHINN

homestead, and in the past ten years has gone ahead with its improvement, and has made many changes for the better. During his father's lifetime he contributed a great deal of the work performed about the place, and in later years has also had the assistance of his own boys, who represent the fourth generation of the Younce family in Miami county. The father was an active member and a trustee of the Methodist church at Santa Fe, and the son and other members of the family also worship in the same society. Mr. Younce, since taking charge of the homestead, has increased the property until he is now proprietor of one hundred and two acres of fine land. In politics he is a Republican, and his father before him voted for and supported the same party.

Mr. W. W. Younce was married October 13, 1887, to Miss Ida Knight, a daughter of James and Rebecca Weisner Knight. The four children born to Mr. Younce and wife are mentioned as follows: Lenna, born September 21, 1888, and now associated with his father in the management of the homestead; Ralph, born December 14, 1890, married Effie E. Bowman; Roscoe, born July 1, 1897; and Walter E., born December 5, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Younce's beautiful estate is known as "Maplehurst."

EDWARD D. SHINN. Now owner of one of the attractive farms of Butler township, Mr. Shinn spent the early years of his career in the employ of others, working at wages, and gradually progressed until he was independent and, though still a young man, has acquired a good home and has laid a solid foundation for the prosperity of his future years.

Edward D. Shinn was born in Wabash county, Indiana, April 14, 1872. His father was John Shinn, and his grandfather, Samuel Shinn. The mother, who is still living, was before her marriage Margaret Deal, a daughter of Jacob Deal. In 1876 the family moved from Wabash county into Miami county, and the father first located in Clay township, although a considerable portion of his land lay in Washington township. He built the barn still standing on the estate, but the house now occupied by members of the family was put up by the mother and her son. There were one hundred and thirty-three acres in the home place in Clay and Washington townships, and when the Shinn family first came into possession of it, much of the land was covered with timber and stumps. That furnished a great field for labor, both for the father and the boys, and they all received a thorough course of training in the clearing and grubbing which are necessary preliminaries for the cultivation of Indiana soil. When the family first moved there, they lived in a frame house with mud walls, and there was a double log barn on the place. The father gave his energies to the improvement of the land, until his death. He was of Scotch descent, a native of Ohio, and died in 1898 and is buried in Harrison township. He was a member of the German Baptist church. The mother is still living, her home being in McGrawsville, in this county.

Edward D. Shinn received his education in Miami county by attendance at the common schools, and learned the trade of carpenter. He worked at this for several years, in different localities, and then married and settled on a farm in Wabash county. He and his wife lived as renters for some time, and then came to their present place in Butler township. He owned a share in the old home place, but sold that and applied the proceeds to the present farm. Mr. Shinn has ninety-two and a half acres, and it is valuable land, most of its value having been the result of his steady industry for a number of years. He has instituted all the improvements, consisting of the house, barn



and fencing, and has ditched a large portion of the lower land. The farm has been brought up to modern standards in every respect, and is one of the most productive in this part of the county.

Mr. Shinn was married in 1895, at Peru, to Miss Nettie Emehisen, a daughter of John and Susan (Williams) Emehisen. They have no children. Mr. Shinn and wife are members of the Methodist church, and he has been superintendent of the Sunday School. He is also a trustee of the parsonage. In politics he is a Republican. He has associated himself with many of the local activities of his community, belongs to the Horse Thief Protective Association, and at one time was a member of the Carpenters' Union of Chicago.

**JOHN RICHER.** It is most consonant that in this history be incorporated a memoir to John Richer, who was one of the honored pioneers of Miami county and whose life was one guided and governed by the highest principles of integrity, even as it was prolific in accomplishment in connection with practical affairs. He established his home on a farm in Peru township about the year 1849 and, through his industry and civic liberality, he did his part in furthering the development and up-building of the county which long represented his home and the stage of his earnest and fruitful endeavors.

He was born near the city of Berne, Switzerland, in the year 1815, and he was a scion of one of the old and influential families of that section of his fatherland, where he was reared to manhood and where he received a liberal education. He was well versed in both the German and French languages, both of which he read, spoke and wrote with practically equal fluency, besides which, after coming to America, he gained an admirable command of the English language. As a young man he was a successful teacher in the schools of France and shortly after attaining his legal majority he immigrated to the United States. Soon after his arrival in America he established his home in Wayne county, Ohio, where he gave his attention to farming during the summer seasons and found requisition for his services as a teacher in the common schools during the intervening winter terms. There was solemnized his marriage to Miss Magdalene Naftzger, who was born in France, and who was a girl at the time of the family removal to America. Of this gracious and ideal union were born in Ohio three children—Christian, John and Catherine—and in 1849 Mr. Richer came with his family to Miami county, Indiana, where he secured a tract of heavily timbered land, in Peru township, and set himself to the task of reclaiming a farm from the virtual wilderness. He labored with unremitting diligence and proved his physical powers to be as potent in results as those of his fine mentality. During the winter months he was a successful and popular teacher in the pioneer schools, and not a few who later attained to prominence in connection with civic and business affairs in Miami county profited greatly from his instruction and admonition in the formative period of their lives. He was a man of high intellectuality and fine ideals, and his influence was ever benignant and grateful. Three sons were born after the removal to Indiana, and to them were given the respective names of Daniel, Joseph and David Elias. In their original religious faith the parents were Amish Mennonites, but for many years prior to their death they were devout and zealous members of the United Brethren church. Mr. Richer died on his old homestead farm in 1890, at the age of seventy-five years, and his loved and devoted wife passed to the life beyond in 1886, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. All of their children are still living and all hold in reverent affection the gracious memories of their noble

father and mother, whose names merit enduring place on the roll of the honored pioneers of the county. Christian, the eldest of the children, still resides in Miami county; John is a resident of North Manchester, Wabash county, Indiana; Catherine is the wife of Joseph B. Speicher, deceased, and resides in Wabash county, Indiana; and the three younger sons, Daniel, Joseph and David E., likewise continued to represent the family name in Miami county.

Joseph Richer, the fifth in order of birth of the six children of his parents, was born on the old homestead farm in Peru township, on the 3d of February, 1853, and thus his memory forms an indissoluble link between the middle pioneer era and the latter days of opulent progress and prosperity in this favored section of the Hoosier state. He duly availed himself of the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period, and was signally favored in being reared in a home of distinctive culture and refinement. He is a man of broad mental ken and mature judgment and has greatly amplified his education through well directed reading and other self-discipline, as well as through association with the practical affairs of life. Miami county is endeared to him through many gracious memories and hallowed associations, and he has never faltered in his loyalty to his native heath, as here has he found ample opportunity for productive endeavor and also maintained a secure place in the confidence and esteem of a host of friends who are tried and true. He remained at the parental home and continued to be associated in the work and management of the farm until he had reached man's estate, and in the meanwhile he proved his eligibility for pedagogic honors by successfully teaching in a district school for one term. Thereafter he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits and stock-growing, on a well improved farm in Peru township, continuing thus until 1896, when he removed with his family to the city of Peru, where has since been maintained the family home—a home known for its gracious and unostentatious hospitality and good cheer. A few years after his removal to Peru Mr. Richer here engaged in the lumber business, and in amplification of the same he later purchased an interest in the sawmill owned and operated by the firm of Miller, Eisaman & Company. Somewhat later Mr. Miller retired from the business, whereupon the firm title was changed to Eisaman & Richer. In January, 1912, Elmer Eisaman, a son of the senior member, and Mr. Richer's son-in-law, J. W. Bossard, were admitted to partnership in the business, which has since been continued under the original firm name. The concern does a general manufacturing business in hardwood lumber, and the annual output of the well equipped and essentially modern plant runs from two and one-half to three million feet of lumber, so that the industry represents one of the important business enterprises of Miami county, a general lumber trade being conducted in connection with the manufacturing department.

In addition to his interest in this thriving business, Mr. Richer shows his continued allegiance to the great basic industry under the influence of which he was reared, as he is the owner of a fine landed estate of about four hundred acres in his native county. Of this valuable farming land one hundred and sixty acres are in Peru township, and he gives a general supervision to his farming interests, besides which he is the owner of valuable realty in Peru, including his attractive residence property.

Mr. Richer is a broad-gauged and progressive citizen and a representative business man of his native county, and here his circle of friends may consistently be said to coincide with that of his acquaintances, so that he is not like the prophet of old, and without honor in



his own country. He is liberal and public-spirited and is ever ready to lend his influence and his tangible co-operation in the furtherance of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. While imbued with naught of ambition for political office, Mr. Richer is well fortified as to his opinions concerning governmental and economic measures and accords a stanch allegiance to the Republican party. Both he and his wife are zealous members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and are active and liberal supporters of the work of the church of this denomination in their home city.

On the 22nd of June, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Richer to Miss Susan Casper, who was born near Canton, Ohio, and who is the daughter of the late George Casper, a sterling pioneer of Stark county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Richer have three children—Anise, who is the wife of Willis G. Tobey, of Peru; Ada, who married John W. Bossard, associated with the lumber and manufacturing interests of Eisaman & Richer, as previously stated; and Miriam, who is a member of the Class of 1915 in Chicago University, Chicago, Illinois. The daughters have all been most popular factors in the social activities of Peru, and the home life of the family has altogether been one of the most ideal associations.

**JOHN W. VOLPERT.** Holding prestige in business circles because of his connection with an old established firm organized in 1886, of Peru, Indiana, and in public life on account of signal services, catching some of the notable criminals throughout the country, he has rendered his community and the state in positions of trust and responsibility, John W. Volpert is recognized as one of the representative men of Miami county and the state of Indiana.

He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, May the 21st, 1864, and is the son of Casper and Christene (Sharp) Volpert (deceased), who were the parents of six sons and two daughters. Casper Volpert was born in Berlin, Germany, February 2nd, 1822, and as a young man came to the United States, locating first at New Albany, Indiana, and subsequently moved to the city of Louisville, Kentucky, where he became a stone mason and a contractor, built many of the streets in that city, and was widely and favorably known. In 1860 he opened a dry goods store. In 1861, leaving his business to his wife and children, he joined the Kentucky troops, where he served in the Civil war. In 1865 he took up contracting, street building, etc., in the city of Louisville. In 1891 he came to Peru, with his wife, to retire and make his home with his son. They were members of the Roman Catholic church. In 1844 Mr. Volpert was married at New Albany, Indiana, to Christene Sharp, who was born in Berne, Germany, December 13, 1831, and came with her mother to America in 1838, to New Albany, Indiana, and whom he knew in the old country. She died at Peru, Indiana, January 1st, 1894, at the age of 63 years. Mr. Volpert died May 8th, 1907. To them were born eight children, of which seven survive them. They are Michael Volpert, Bloomington; Frank Volpert, Seattle, Washington; Barbara Volpert, of Louisville, Kentucky; Joseph, and Mrs. Michael Fahey, also of Louisville, Kentucky; John W. and Andrew of Peru, Indiana.

John W. Volpert was reared in the city of Louisville, and was educated in Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic school. At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith trade, his father becoming his bondsman for \$1,000 for the guarantee of the boy completing his apprenticeship. He was paid one dollar a week during the first year and one dollar and a half during the second year and two dollars

a week during the final year. At the end of that time, having thoroughly mastered the chosen calling, he became head blacksmith and tool sharpener, and horseshoer for the contractors, Coleman & Davis, of Bardstown, Kentucky, from Livingston, Kentucky, to Jellico, Tennessee, on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, known as the Knoxville branch. This work lasted three years and upon its completion he was given the task of taking the live stock and implements back to Louisville, later requiring a full year to dispose of the commissary of the company with which Mr. Volpert was connected in disposing of goods. During this time he was interpreter for the Swiss colony, of which many arrived from Switzerland, and assisted in organizing a colony at Altamont, Pinehill and East Bernstadt, Kentucky. Later he returned to Louisville and then took a position with W. B. Belknap Company at Salem, Indiana, blacksmithing, sharpening tools and horseshoeing. From there he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked at the horseshoers' trade for three years.

A short time after he became a news "butcher" on the railroad running from Cincinnati to Indianapolis, and the latter city to Parkersburg, West Virginia. Mr. Volpert saw an advertisement in the Cincinnati *Inquirer* and answered it, came to Peru, March 29th, 1886, and here he entered in the blacksmith business with V. R. Hays, with whom he co-operated for twenty-one years. As a Democrat, Mr. Volpert was elected as city councilman in 1900, served as a member thereof for two years, in which body he was chairman of the street committee, while Broadway was newly paved with brick. In 1889 Mr. Volpert was the founder and organizer of the Master Horseshoer Protective Association of Indiana and in 1900 he was the organizer of the Miami County Horse Thief Detective Association, and later organized the various counties with associations. Cass, Howard, Marion and Wabash counties have various organizations, and other detective associations in Miami county.

These associations have done a vast amount of good in this community, and throughout the country, too numerous to mention. In 1900 he organized the Erie Township Fox Drive Association, which is known throughout the country and usually draws a crowd of 5,000 people or more. It was the sport of northern Indiana, of which these chases are given annually. In 1896 he organized a military organization known as the Volpert Zouaves. They were known throughout the state as a fancy drill company, and won many prizes; also had the honor of escorting Governor Matthews and Governor Mount at different times. After holding a position as captain of this company for two years, he was succeeded by John R. Huber. In 1902 he was elected brigadier general of the Uniform Rank of the Catholic Knights of America, under Major General Leo J. Kadeski, of St. Louis, and later held the position for two years under Major General John W. Nordhouse. In 1905 he organized the State Police, Sheriffs, Marshals and Detectives Association, which had its first meeting in Peru, and over three hundred officials attended from all the state, and which is today known as the National Sheriffs Association. Mr. Volpert was also vice president of the Peru Commercial Club.

On November 25th, 1887, Mr. Volpert was married to Mary A. Spitznagel, who was born at Logansport in 1886, and was the daughter of John A. and Gertrude Spitznagel, Mr. Spitznagel being in the wagon manufacturing business in Peru for many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Volpert were born ten children, of whom all survive. They are: William John, Francis Casper, Anna Mary, Lucille Alice, Loretta Clotilda, Fedilis Michael, Clement Edward, Clarence Reuben, Herman



Cornelius Joseph, and Mary Agnes Frances. Lucille Alice is a member of the Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary of the Woods, Terre Haute, Indiana, her name in religion being Sister Rose Gertrude. William J. married Miss Adeline Schmool on January 10, 1911.

In 1906 Mr. Volpert was elected sheriff of Miami county, and in 1908 he was re-elected. During those four years he made a record for himself and was known as the best sheriff throughout the country. He has run down criminals, horse thieves, check forgers and chicken thieves, petit and grand larceny, of all kinds. Mr. Volpert was known throughout the country as a criminal catcher, and for thirteen years he has held the position as president of the detective association. Mr. Volpert was president of the Diamond Anniversary of Peru, which was celebrated in 1909.

Mr. Volpert belongs to many social and benevolent organizations and was chairman of the button committee of the National Horse Thief Detective Association. Mr. Volpert belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of America, Independent Order of Foresters, Peru Maennerchor, German Aid Society, Social Friendship Association, Moose, Horse Thief Detective Association, National Sheriffs Association, State Police and Detective Association, and Horseshoers Association. He is a member and treasurer of The Shoot Course of Lectures. In 1898 he was elected colonel of the Indiana Zouaves under Maj.-Gen. Wertz, the present mayor of Crawfordsville. Mr. Volpert has, while sheriff, been in business under the name of Toepher and Volpert, horse-shoeing and blacksmithing, his partner being George Toepher.

A son, William J. Volpert, took Mr. Volpert's interest while he was sheriff, for a term of four years, and at present Mr. Volpert is engaged in the shop. During the recent flood Mr. Volpert was the first one reported drowned and was also the first one to cross the Wabash river during its height, going to South Peru to assist with his boat, as the South Side had not heard from Peru for three days, and it was a glad surprise to see him, many rushing to him and asking how friends and relatives were.

Miami county has had no more able, efficient, or fearless sheriff, and the universal esteem in which he is held by all whom know him gives ample evidence of his popularity in all sections.

**WILLIAM H. GUSTIN.** Established in the real estate, loan and insurance business in the city of Peru, Mr. Gustin has gained secure place as one of the reliable and progressive business men and liberal and public-spirited citizens of his native county. Further interest attaches to his career by reason of the fact that he is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of this county, within whose borders his parents established their home more than sixty years ago.

William Horace Gustin was born on the home farm in Pipe Creek township, this county, on the 28th of December, 1856, and is one of the four surviving members of a family of ten children. He is a son of John B. and Elizabeth (Dearth) Gustin, both of whom were born and reared in Ohio, in which state their marriage was solemnized. John B. Gustin continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits in his native state until about 1849, when he removed with his family to Indiana and numbered himself among the pioneers of Miami county. He purchased eighty acres of land, in the midst of the forest, and on a clearing made by him he erected his modest log house, which constituted the original domicile of the family and which was the abode of comfort and happiness, notwithstanding the primitive conditions of the day and the trials and labors to be endured. In the clearing of his land

Mr. Gustin availed himself of a yoke of oxen, and his implements were of the rudimentary type common to the pioneer days. He eventually sold his original farm and removed to a smaller tract of land, but later he purchased a farm of one hundred acres, where he continued to reside until his death, in 1887, at the age of sixty-two years. His widow, who has been a devoted companion and helpmeet, survived him by a quarter of a century and was summoned to the life eternal on the 4th of June, 1912. The life of John B. Gustin was unmarked by dramatic incidents, but was one of earnest and consecutive application in connection with the great basic art of agriculture, and as a sincere, earnest and righteous man he merited and received the implicit confidence and esteem of his fellow-men. He gained independence and prosperity through well-ordered industry, was kindly and considerate to all, and had abiding faith in the intrinsic worth of his fellow-men until the same was abused in individual instances. Without enmity or intolerance, he lived a simple and earnest life and he left the priceless heritage of a good name. Both he and his wife were zealous and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The boyhood and youth of William H. Gustin were compassed by the influences and labors of the pioneer farm and he thus early learned the dignity and value of honest toil and endeavor, the while he duly profited by the educational advantages afforded in the district schools. For several years, after leaving the parental roof, he found employment at farm work, and later assumed a position as clerk in a restaurant in Peru. Later he conducted a livery business at Danville, Illinois, for a period of about three years, at the expiration of which he returned to Peru. Here he shortly afterward engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business, to which he has since continued to give his attention and in which he has built up a prosperous enterprise. Through his real estate operations he has done much to further civic and industrial progress in his native county, and his fairness and integrity in all of the relations of life have gained and retained to him the confidence and good will of those with whom he has come in contact in business and social associations. He is one of the alert and progressive citizens of Peru and takes a lively interest in all that tends to advance the welfare of the community. He is the owner of an appreciable amount of real estate in his home city and county and, though he has manifested no predilection for public office, he has been an active and effective worker in the ranks of the Republican party, in which he has served as chairman of the county central committee of Miami county, a position of which he is the incumbent at the time of this writing, in 1913. Notwithstanding the Democratic victory in the national election of 1912 and the defection of Republicans who entered the ranks of the new-born Progressive party, Mr. Gustin retains abiding faith in the basic principles of the "grand old party," with which he has long been aligned, and believes that its star is destined again to come into ascendancy. He is affiliated with the lodge and encampment bodies of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as well as with the local organizations of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees and the Loyal Order of Moose. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church in their home city.

On the 14th of October, 1890, Mr. Gustin was united in marriage to Miss Fannie B. Lamme, of Peru, who was at that time a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of the city of Indianapolis and who is a most popular factor in the representative social activities of her home city. The one child of this union is Elba Gertrude, who remains at the parental home.



**EUGENE M. CLARK.** Business methods applied to farming have seldom failed to pay large dividends. Mr. Eugene M. Clark of Pipe Creek township is one of the business farmers of his community, and is proprietor and manager of a farm which well illustrated modern farming methods in this section of Miami county. Mr. Clark is a thrifty, prosperous citizen, and is one of the men who give character to the farming communities of this county.

Eugene M. Clark was born in Clay township, Miami county, March 5, 1867. He belongs to one of the old families, his paternal grandfather, Thomas Clark, an Englishman by birth, having come to this county in 1845 from Ohio, and in Clay township entering a tract of land direct from the government ownership. All this land had to be cleared of a heavy growth of timber, which covered practically every acre of it, and in the midst of the first clearing made among the trees was erected the first family habitation, a house of logs. He somewhat later put up the first frame house in that vicinity, and his neighbors were very skeptical about claiming that it would never stand up.

The parents of Mr. Eugene Clark are George W. and Hannah (Herrell) Clark, the mother being a daughter of Isaac Herrell. George W. Clark who is still living at the age of seventy years, while his wife passed away about a year ago, was born in Ohio in 1843, and was consequently two years of age when the family moved to Miami county. He remained on the old home farm after the death of his father, and has followed a prosperous career of farming in this county.

Eugene M. Clark was at home until he was twenty-four years of age, and attended the public schools of this county, and passed the first school examination held in the township. He learned the arts of farming on his father's place, and for a time was engaged in working other land which he rented nearby. Subsequently with the accumulation of his thrift, he bought eighty acres south of Bunker Hill, where he lived for about eleven years. He later bought the farm which he now owns in Pipe Creek township. At that time the place was improved with a house and an old barn, but he was practically renovated the entire establishment, and among other improvements has erected a fine new barn and other buildings. He has also replaced all the fences about the fields. The Clark farm contains eighty acres, and since locating here Mr. Clark has cleared off and placed in cultivation the twelve acres which formerly were in timber, so that the entire acreage is now subject to cultivation. He has made a business of general farming, but at the present time is specializing in the raising of Duroc Jersey hogs.

In 1891 Mr. Clark married Miss Louiese J. Haggerty, whose people came to Miami county from Ohio. The six children born to their marriage are named as follows: Agnes May; Donna Alma; George Loren; Bessie Lucile; Vera Alice, who died when two years of age; and Hallie I. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have taken much pains with the training and education of their children, have supplied them with good home advantage, and given them the privileges of the Miami county schools. Mr. Clark and family worship in the Methodist Church and he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, Castle Hall No. 299 at Bunker Hill and the Mongosha Tribe of Red Men No. 267. In politics he is a Republican. His father was a member of the Quaker religion. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Clark is known as "Ingleside."

**DR. JOHN H. SOMMER, V. S.** As the owner and operator of one of the prosperous farms in Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, Dr. John H. Sommer holds an influential place in the community. He has always been a farmer, having been reared on a farm and trained for an



PUGSEY  
PHOTO

"MAPLE LAWN STOCK FARM"  
RESIDENCE OF DR. AND MRS. JOHN H. SOMMER





agricultural life as well as a skillful veterinary surgeon. He comes of German ancestry on both sides of the family and the honesty and industry of his ancestral race have been inherited by him. He is a well known and popular man in this community, but has little time to spare for anything but the work of his farm, although he is interested in every movement that has the advancement of the community as its object.

Dr. Sommer is the son of John G. Sommer, and the grandson of John Frederick Sommer. Both his grandfather and father were born in Germany. John G. Sommer came to the United States as a young man, and in Portage county, Ohio, met and married Lucinda Glass, a daughter of Peter Glass. They later came to Indiana to live and here in Allen county, near Fort Wayne, on the 2nd of February, 1858, J. H. Sommer was born.

It was in Perry township, in the town of Gilead that Dr. Sommer received his education. He received a fair education there and has since further extended his knowledge by taking correspondence courses. In 1879 he came with his father to a farm a half mile west of Gilead in Perry township, and here the two men set to work to improve and clear the farm, which contained eighty-four acres. The buildings that stood on the farm at that time are still standing, but Mr. Sommer and his father did much work in making improvements. They dug many rods of ditching and built a great deal of fencing, and here John G. Sommer lived until the time of his death. His widow is still living aged 76 and makes her home on this farm.

Dr. J. H. Sommer made his home on the old farm, aiding his father with the work, until he married. He then rented a farm for a few years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm. This consists of 156 acres, and although the present buildings were all on the place when Mr. Sommer purchased it, there was no ditching and fencing as there is now. In addition to improving the property in this way he has also cleared quite a bit of the land himself. He does general farming.

John G. Sommer was a member of the Lutheran church, but his son belongs to no church though he is a firm believer in religion and attends various churches in the neighborhood.

Dr. Sommer married March 1, 1882, Miss Hattie E. Engelhardt, a daughter of John Engelhardt and Eva (Spangler) Engelhardt. Her parents came from Germany, and they first located in Portage county, Ohio, where Mrs. Sommer was born. Her father was a member of the German Catholic church and died in 1887. Her mother is still living and makes her home in Perry township. Dr. and Mrs. Sommer have two sons. The eldest, Charles Franklin, was born on the 12th of April, 1885. John Frederick, the younger son, was born on the 15th of August, 1887.

Charles F. received his diploma from the public school in 1891, and then was a student four years in the Gilead High School. In addition he took a course of instruction in the School of Correspondence at Washington, D. C. He graduated from the Rochester High School at Rochester, Ind., in 1905. He is one of the efficient teachers in the Gilead High School, at present. He wedded Miss Alma A. Barber April 2, 1905, and they have one son, Claude LeRoy. Mr. Sommer is a member of the Gilead Masonic order and his wife is a member of the Eastern Star.

John Frederick received his diploma from the public schools and was a student in the Gilead High School and then took a full course in banking and bookkeeping in the Huntington Business College, and was bookkeeper for the American Can Co. of Chicago. In 1909 and 1910 he was a student at the Valparaiso University. He also took a special



course at Rochester, N. Y., covering the work of the Government Mail Service. He wedded Miss Blanche Hoover, December 11, 1911, and one little son was born in September 11, 1913, and is named J. Frederick. Mr. Sommer is a member of the Gilead Masonic Lodge and his wife of the Eastern Star.

Dr. Sommer, the subject of the review, besides his agricultural pursuits has devoted twenty-five years to the practice of veterinary surgery. He took up the study in the Toronto, Canada, School of Veterinary Science and graduated from that well known institution at the close of 1905. Although in September, 1901, he was granted a license to practice the profession, and he has practiced in Miami, Wabash and Fulton counties.

Dr. Sommer is an honored member of the Masonic Lodge of Gilead and has been since 1880 and has filled all the chairs of his lodge. His wife, his two sons and their wives are all members of the Eastern Star.

The beautiful estate of Dr. and Mrs. Sommer is known as "Maple Lawn Stock Farm."

LEVI B. WOLF. In the business of farming, one of the oldest occupations of humanity, one of the representatives of the second generations in Pipe Creek township, who have prospered well, and has provided not only for their own immediate well being, but by their labor and thrift have added something to the community's resources, is Levi B. Wolf, who resides on the comfortable farm which was settled soon after the war by his father and family.

Levi B. Wolf was born in Frederick county, Maryland, November 26, 1864. His parents were George and Sophia (Hoover) Wolf. There were two sons and two daughters in the family. The father died and his body now rests in Miami county, while the mother is still living. The father was a very religious man and took part in all the activities of his church, and all the benevolent affairs of his community. Very public spirited, he gave his assistance to every movement to promote the general welfare of his home district, and having the confidence of his fellow citizens, he was at one time elected to the office of Assessor.

Mr. George Wolf, the father, brought his family to Miami county, in 1865, first locating in Washington township, subsequently moving to Arkansas, where he lived only a short while, and then back to Miami county, locating in Pipe Creek township, where his son Levi B., now lives. The house, a comfortable frame dwelling, which still stands on the farm was the original structure which was remodeled after the Wolf family took possession. In the vicinity of the Wolf farm at the time of their settlement the land throughout this portion of Pipe Creek township was either covered with timber or was in the swamps. George Wolf with the aid of his sons, devoted many years of labor to clearing up the home farm, and to tiling and ditching and establishing the other improvements for the prerequisites of profitable farming. On the place they erected all the buildings with the exception of the barn and made many improvements which have produced on the present estate one of the best in this section of Miami county.

Levi B. Wolf, as a boy, grew up on this old farm, in Pipe Creek township, and during the winters was able to attend school about four months, his educational advantages being confined to such as he could obtain in the home district school, during its limited session. He remained at home and attained a thorough training as a farmer, and on December 31, 1891, was married to Miss Sarah F. Oyler, a daughter of Henry and Sarah (Wisenger) Oyler. She had nine sisters and four

brothers, and her father came to Miami county from Ohio. Her mother was reared in Miami county where she and her husband were married. Mrs. Wolf's father, Henry Oyler, died in Washington township of this county. To the marriage of Mr. Wolf and wife has been born one son George, born May 13, 1897, and now attending the local high school. Mr. Wolf in politics is a Democrat, and has no relations with secret societies. He cultivates the eighty acres comprised in his home farm, and enjoys prosperity as a farmer and the thorough esteem of his fellow citizens.

FRANK F. ISLER. The name of Isler is one that is known throughout the length and breadth of Miami county, and in the adjacent territory as well, for men of the name have been identified with farming and farm life hereabouts since 1869, in which year the family was established in Pipe Creek township. More than a half century of constant growth and development have been conducive to many changes in the physical aspect of the country and representatives of the Isler family have through the passing years played well their parts as actors in the drama of growth that has been here carried on. He whose name introduces this brief sketch in connection with the family has taken his full share of the burden and has advanced immeasurably in the matter of material prosperity and position. Always a family that bore the respect and esteem of their fellows, Mr. Isler has advanced to a place of prominence in public life, and is known not only as a successful farmer man, but as an up-to-date and capable citizen, who is ever willing to bear his share in the burden of civic responsibility, and give his aid wherever it was most needed.

Born in Shelby county, Ohio, on April 5, 1867, Frank Isler is the son of Jonathan and Sarah (Apple) Isler, and the grandson of another Jonathan, who came from Germany, where all his children were born with the single exception of the father of the subject, and he claims the state of Ohio as the place of his nativity. Jonathan Isler, Jr., commonly known as Euny Isler among his intimates, came to Miami county in August, 1869, accompanied by his young wife and family. He was a farmer, born and bred to the task of the husbandman, and he found for himself a place in Pipe Creek township, of some two hundred acres of land. The place was unimproved, as it might be expected, and only a small house and a barn of no more ample proportions graced the new bought farm when he took possession. But Frank Isler's father was a man of energy and ambition. He came to Miami county to farm, and to farm successfully, and his experience and progress fully carried out his intentions in that respect. In 1874 a new bank barn, forty by eighty feet in dimensions, was reared upon the place, and it may be mentioned in passing that the subject came near to losing his young life as the result of an accident that took place while the barn was in course of construction. Four years later a fine, modern brick house was erected. The scant forty acres of land that was cleared upon the place when it came into possession of the Islers gradually spread itself abroad as a result of the unremitting toil the father and his son, as the latter advanced in years, put upon the place, so that with the passing years it increased in comeliness and in value as well, and came to be one of the fine show places of the county. There were several children beside Frank in the family, and of the number only one, who was crippled, remained at home. Arthur left the home fireside when he was eighteen years old and applied himself to learning telegraphy, later becoming associated with railroad work, in which he has since continued. Omar married Bessie Murden, and after a lapse of years returned to the old homestead and there makes his home today.



Frank Isler received only such educational advantages as were common to the country youth of his time and locality, and he married at the age of twenty-five, soon thereafter renting a farm in Deer Creek township. He lived there for two years, and then, convinced of the desirability and productiveness of the place, purchased it. It was a small place, only twenty acres going to make up its breadth at the time, but Mr. Isler soon added ten acres, later taking on another tract of sixty acres, and some four years later adding another ten acres to his holdings, until he had an acreage of one hundred acres at his command. The first purchase had a log house upon it, and there they lived for twelve years, but in 1904 he built a fine two story house for the accommodation of his growing family. He also built a capacious barn, 36x70 feet, and has made many another improvement in the place. Six hundred rods of tiling drain the place to a nicety, and five hundred rods of ungraceful and ineffectual rail fencing were replaced with modern wire fencing. The family continued there until November, 1911, when they moved to Bunker Hill. There they bought a lot in a desirable location and built their present comfortable and capacious home. It has nine rooms in all and is regarded as the most modern home in Bunker Hill, boasting as it does, electric lights, furnace heat, perfect water supply, capacious cement basement, etc., and the family derive much comfort from all these conveniences, many of which were not available to them in their days upon the old place in Pipe Creek township.

To return to the subject of Mr. Isler's family, it may be said that his marriage took place in 1890, when Jessie, the daughter of James Lawrence, became his wife. Her mother as Marguerite (Taylor) Lawrence, and the family was well known in Miami county for many years. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Isler. Zella, the eldest, was born on January 7, 1892, and is married to Calvin Shropshire; they have one child, Ruth, and the family make their home in Deer Creek township on her father's farm where Mrs. Shropshire was raised. Glen Isler was born on March 10, 1894, and he shares the parental home as yet. Gladys, born February 7, 1897, attends the Bunker Hill high school; and Raymond, the youngest, born August 2, 1902, also attends school.

Mr. Isler takes an active interest in the affairs of the county and of his own community, and is now superintendent of the pikes of Miami county, a position which he is admirably fitted to fill. He has served on a number of other appointive positions as well, one of them being two years service on the Board of Reviews, by appointment of Judge Tillett.

The churchly relations of Mr. Isler are with the Methodist Episcopal church of Bunker Hill, although he was christened in the Lutheran faith and early trained in the doctrine of that denomination. The absence of any Lutheran body in this locality precludes the possibility of his affiliating with his own faith, but he gives his unfailing support to the Methodist organization of this community. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Castle Hall No. 299, as well as of the Masonic order in Bunker Hill and the Redmen and the Pythian Sisters of Bunker Hill.

WILLIAM SIMS began life in Miami county as a farm hand, under the most untoward circumstances, and dependent solely upon his native thrift and energy to establish him in life. His success has been worthy of a man better equipped than he, and has grown out of his fine and abundant energy,—his willingness to put forth every effort in the work in hand, and his splendid integrity and wholesome character. His first farm was a forty acre one, and he has since come to be the owner of

as much as 474 acres, out of which he gave generous gifts to each of his children, and he still retains a fine place of 160 acres for his own use.

William Sims was born on August 30, 1833, in Maryland. He is the son of Francis and Sarah (Kirk) Sims, and the grandson of William Sims, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and who died in the service of the Continental army. The mother of Mr. Sims died in the forties, and she is buried at West Liberty, Virginia. He is one of three sons,—the others, Robert and John, having both served in the Union army during the Civil war.

When William Sims was twenty-one years old he came to Miami county, and two years later he married and set up an establishment of his own. He was without capital and with a limited education, and the first work he found in Miami county was as a farm hand, at which he worked for several years. The country was rough and uncleared, and the work of grubbing out roots and stumps was one that gave steady employment to many men in those days. Mr. Sims continued with that work until he finally decided that it would be more profitable to him to perform that work for himself as a land owner than as a day laborer, but the state of his finances did not permit him to become independent in just that way at that time. After a few years of hard work in Miami county, he went to Helena, Montana, where he applied himself diligently to prospecting in the gold fields, and his labors were rewarded with some success. So much so that after four years he returned to Miami county with his family and bought himself a farm. His first place was graced with a log cabin, which he later, in more prosperous times, replaced with a frame house, of small, but definite proportions. He later bought the John Brandon farm and there he made many improvements, bringing it up to a fine state of cultivation and making a modern and commodious home on the place. He lived there for about thirty years, and reared a fine family while he was adding prosperity to prosperity in his farming operations. An acreage of 400 acres finally came to be his, which he divided up into parcels of 40 acres and gave each of his children a home, retaining 160 acres for his own use. He came to Bunker Hill on May 12, 1911, and bought his present home in this community which is one of the most modern and comfortable ones to be found here, and with an ideal location.

Mr. Sims was married in 1856 to Miss Salome (Studebaker) Sims, the daughter of William Studebaker, and one of a family of four sons and two daughters, all of whom, with the exception of Mrs. Sims, died in immature years. William Studebaker, who was once a resident of Cass county, died in Clay township, Miami county. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sims; John, born in 1857; Philena, who married Joseph Glassburn, and became the mother of seven children; she is now deceased; Nancy, who married Alfred Glassburn; Josephine, who died in infancy; Charles, who married Myrtle Bertram; Annette, the wife of Gus Tumblin; Tilton, who married Emma Sutton; and George, who is unmarried, and is identified with railroad work. All are filling places of usefulness in their various committees, and are a distinct credit to the parents who reared them.

Mr. Sims and his family have long been affiliated with the Baptist church, in which they have taken praiseworthy parts in the work of the various departments of the church, and Mr. Sims is a member of the Masonic order, Bunker Hill Lodge. He stands well in the community wherein he was long known and where he has recently come to be established in Bunker Hill, and is one of the honored and honorable men of the county.



**WILLIAM F. CROUDER.** All his life William F. Crouder has been identified with this section of the state, and he has given the best years of his existence to the farming business, in which he was born and bred. When his father died he became possessed of the fine old place that had been the home of the parents for many a year, and he has here continued in prosperity and well-being, improving the place in many ways and bringing it up to a high standard of cultivation. He is recognized for one of the most successful and enterprising farming men in the county and has amply earned that distinction by reason of his accomplishments in the agricultural world.

Born in Wayne county, Indiana, on May 20, 1841, William F. Crouder is the son of Jacob and Marguerite (Dubler) Crouder. They were people of German birth, who came to America while still very young in years, and married in Cincinnati. They settled first in Hamilton county, Coal Range township, Ohio, and the young husband worked for a time as a blacksmith in Dayton, later buying land in Coal Range township, where he lived with his little family for some twelve years. He then moved to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he also bought land, and for fifteen years he lived there, moving thence to Miami county, Indiana. The family were still in an unsettled state, and they moved back to Indiana, settling in Miami county in Pipe Creek township, and there the father ended his days, death claiming him on April 23, 1891. The wife and mother died on April 12, 1865.

Mr. Crouder came to Miami county March 14, 1866, from Hamilton county, Ohio, where he had lived for some two years after his father's marriage. He started in on the home farm of his father, who was a widower at that time, and he remained there with his family, finally coming into possession of the place when his parent passed away. In the passing years he has made many improvements on the old home place, among the more salient features being a fine new house and barn, and a fine well. The latter he built as a concession to health conditions, which at the time assumed a menacing condition, and many deaths in the township were said to have been the result of impure water in use. The well that Mr. Crouder sunk on his place is one that will forever preclude all further possibilities of troubles from the old typhus enemy, and many of his neighbors avail themselves of its sparkling waters.

Other and varied improvements have been brought to pass, and today the Crouder place, which a few years ago was a dense forest for the most part, stands clean and bare, its fertile soils lie ready and waiting for the plow of the husbandman. While he was yet the owner he saw the passing of the rail fence era, and the entire farm is today fenced with wire, under the most approved conditions, while two thousand rods of ditching and tiling were put in place before Mr. Crouder sold the old home place in 1904. Mr. Crouder, it may be said, is further distinguished as being the first man in this district to sell land for one hundred dollars per acre, but that was the price he asked and received for his farm.

Mr. Crouder has been twice married. His first wife was Magdelene Hook, and he married her in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1863. Four sons were born to them, as follows: Edward C., born February 28, 1865; John F., born on the 9th day of July, 1867; Charles Oren, born July 23, 1869 and Emanuel, born on the 12th day of October, 1872. The wife and mother died on August 30, 1874, and in the following year Mr. Crouder married Mary Kinsley. Four sons were born of this union also: William Albert was born November 20, 1876; Jacob H., on February 16, 1880; Clifford G., on September 9, 1881, and Louis on October 1, 1878. Mrs. Crouder was a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Snyder)







FAMILY GROUP OF MR. AND MRS. BEECHER HERRELL

Kinsley, both of them German born, but who met and married in Miami county.

Mr. Crouder and his wife are faithful members of the Evangelical church, and he is a member of the Board of Trustees. He has served his township as committeeman on numerous occasions, and in past days has on many occasions served as public administrator by appointment. He and his family have long enjoyed the favor and friendship of the best citizenship of their community, and have been undeniably deserving of the same.

**BEECHER HERRELL.** Representing one of the oldest and most honored names of Deer Creek township, Beecher Herrell has for more than thirty years probably done more than any one else to uphold the business activities of the little village of Miami, and is a citizen of integrity and worthy principles as to need no introduction to many hundreds of the residents in this part of Miami county. As a merchant he has always been straightforward in his dealings and has made his business a real service to the community.

Beecher Herrell was born in Deer Creek township, May 1, 1861, a son of James and grandson of William Herrell. The maiden name of his mother was Levina Barker, a daughter of Austin Barker. The Herrell family is one of the oldest in the settlement and development of Deer Creek township, and the name is associated with various distinctions and services in the progress of this locality from the pioneer epoch down to the present time.

In 1884 Mr. Beecher Herrell married Miss Maude I. Tubbs a daughter of William and Anna (Haite) Tubbs. Her father, who is still living, was one of the early settlers of Miami county. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Herrell there have been born five daughters, named as follows: Zella, born in 1886; Lola, born in 1888; Madge, and Elsie, twins, born in 1890; and Georgia born in 1894. Zella became the wife of Harvey Waters, Lola married Walter Wilson, and Madge is the wife of Manford Shaffer. Mr. Herrell is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men, Tribe No. 267, located at Miami, being one of its charter members. His church is the Methodist.

At the age of twenty, having been reared and educated in this part of the county, Mr. Herrell in 1881 established himself in the merchandise business at Miami, and with growing success and increasing facilities has continued as a merchant at that village ever since. His store was burned on December 6, 1890, but he soon had started again on a better basis than ever. For the past twenty-five years he has been postmaster of this village, and since 1904 has been ticket agent for the Interurban Line. He is held in high esteem among his many neighbors and friends in this township. Mrs. Herrell's father was a soldier in the Civil war.

**NEWTON HOOVER.** A pioneer of pioneers in Miami county is Newton Hoover, who has made his home in these parts since 1850 or thereabouts. He has in the passing years been a witness to many phases of the development and onward progress of the county, and has taken an active part in those activities. A veteran of the Civil war, he is honored among his fellows, and as a successful and enterprising man of affairs, he has ever had an enviable position in Bunker Hill and the surrounding community. At one time he was prominent as a sheep raiser and he has also been prominently known as a breeder of fine stock. He is still active and busy with the work of his fine home place, but is not so engrossed in the business of advancing his fortunes as he has been in past years. An honest and honorable man and a citizen of the highest order, his rank



and standing in his community is of the highest and much of honor attaches to his record in the county.

Newton Hoover was born in Miami county, Ohio, on March 27, 1842, and is the son of Harry and Becky (Spencer) Hoover. The mother died in 1868, and the father married a second time, his second wife being Catherine Potter, who was born on January 7, 1837, and who died November 23, 1905. Two children,—Grace and Frank,—were born of this latter union.

In 1850 Mr. Hoover came to Miami county, bringing his family with him, and they settled in the vicinity of Leonda, which village he, together with John Potter, laid out and platted. Mr. Hoover was a farmer, and he also engaged in the pump business in Leonda, making a fair success of his work. He was a public-spirited man, active and energetic, and in good standing with his neighbors at all times. He made his home in Leonda as long as he lived after settling there.

When Newton Hoover married, August 24, 1862, he and his young wife set up housekeeping in a log cabin that boasted of but one room. They settled in Pipe Creek township, and their early years were lean ones, characterized by many of the hardships peculiar to those primitive days. Mr. Hoover recalls today that he assisted his wife to make a rag carpet to cover their cabin floor and lend an air of comfort to the severity of the sparsely furnished place, and in many another similar feat did the young pioneers help to brighten their workaday lives in the wilderness,—for it was in very truth a wilderness when they settled in Clay township in those early days. He applied himself heroically to the herculean task, and with a yoke of oxen spent many a day of toil in up-rooting stumps from the soil to which they held so tenaciously.

In 1862 Mr. Hoover entered the army as a member of Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Indiana Volunteers. All his relatives had already gone to the war, but he disliked to leave his young wife alone and defenseless, and so put off for a time. But he felt that he must answer his country's call, despite his home duties, and he accordingly left his wife with his home people and joined the boys in blue. The young wife with true wifely courage, gave her attention to the upkeep of the fields, helping such harvest hands as they were able to procure, and enduring stoically all the hardship that inevitably fell to the lot of the stay-at-homes in those trying and unhappy times. After a year's service in the army Mr. Hoover returned home and resumed his farm work. He bought more land, and in addition to what he owned, he made it a point to rent a goodly acreage as well. Thirty years of his life were spent on one farm, and there he engaged extensively in sheep raising in company with his life-long friend, Dan Duckwall. He enjoyed a nice success in that enterprise, as well as in the breeding of fancy stock, in which he gained something of a reputation in these parts. In recent years Mr. Hoover has disposed of a number of pieces of farming property, but he still has a generous acreage in and about the county.

It is greatly to the credit of Mr. Hoover as a man and as a husband that he does not assume all the responsibility and glory of the most worthy success that has come to him in his active business career, but is willing to bestow a proper appreciation upon the labors of his fruitful wife. Mrs. Hoover, as well as being a devoted wife and mother, has been of the most material assistance to him in the accumulation of his extensive properties, and has aided him by her advice and counsel in all his business enterprises. It has been mainly through the continuous and unremitting toil on the part of both that they have advanced so far in the scale of prosperity and achieved the very worthy success that is

theirs, and no element of chance or luck has ever entered into their fortunes.

Mr. Hoover was married, August 24, 1862, to Miss Lydia Delawter, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 18th day of April, 1843, the daughter of people who settled in Cass county midway between Peru and Logansport, in the pioneer days of those communities. Mrs. Hoover is a woman who received the most meager educational advantages, attending school three months in the winter for a few years, in the log cabin school house peculiar to those pioneer days. Three daughters and two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoover, concerning whom brief mention is made at this point: Mary R., the first born, married Jacob Butcher, who died in March, 1905, and she has since made her home with her aged parents, and is a source of much comfort to them in their declining years; Judson E., married Eliza Weaver, who died in 1912, leaving children, Russel N., Verse A. and Dewey H.; Laura R. is married to A. J. Van Dorn, and their children are named Alta M., who married Omar Hockman and who has one child,—Jackson; Carrie H., married to Orlando North, and has one child,—Robert North; and Georgia A., married to Clyde, a brother of Orlando North. The fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. Hoover is Effie, married to Harley Poff, and they have one child,—Helen; Harvey N. Hoover married Pearl Bigger.

In 1901 the Hoovers moved to their present commodious and comfortable home in Bunker Hill, which they had owned for two years previous, and here they are spending their declining years, enjoying the fruits of their labors of earlier years. Mr. Hoover and his family are members of the Baptist church, he having been a member since he was a youth of fourteen years. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is prominent in the local post. He remembers the laying of the cornerstones of both the old and the new courthouses in Peru, being in attendance at both ceremonies and also recalls the day when the first railroad train passed through this section of the country. As one of the pioneers of the county, he is well established, and is secure in the esteem and regard of a host of friends and acquaintances in the community, as is also his wife, who shares abundantly in the good will of the best people of the county.

**FRANK WATERS.** When Frank Waters started out in life independently, his sole assets were represented by two old horses, jaded and worn, and a young, unbroken colt. It will not be denied that his progress has been a worthy one, and one that would be creditable to him had he launched under vastly more propitious circumstances. His farm land today aggregates 280 acres of some of the best soil in the county, well stocked with some of the finest live-stock to be found in these parts, with ample barns and comfortable dwelling, and all modern conveniences for the carrying on of the regular work of the place. He stands foremost among the farming men of the community, and is eminently deserving of a word of commendation for his achievements, and of a place in this historical and biographical work. Men of his stamp and calibre have changed the face of the country hereabout, bringing it out from a wilderness condition to one abundantly fruitful and dotted with comfortable and well-to-do homes.

Mr. Waters was born in Cass county in 1854, and is the son of George and Sarah (Gresley) Waters. In 1878 Frank Waters came to Miami county, where he had been occupied with farming up to that time. He had accumulated practically nothing up to that time, his sole possessions being represented by the previously mentioned team and colt, and when he located here he established himself as a renter,—the only



status to which he might aspire in his financial state at the time. After seven years he was able to buy a place of eighty acres, purchasing the place on which he had been living, and there he continued for several years more. He brought about many and varied improvements in and about the place, remodeling and adding to the dwelling, dressing up the outbuildings in their appearance, and putting up a number of new ones. The land was heavily timbered when he came into possession, only one half of it being under cultivation, and he brought the remaining forty under the plow in due time, adding to his holdings from year to year, until he finally came to hold the title deeds to 280 acres, his present holdings. His farm is one of the finest in the community and Mr. Waters may well be proud of his achievements, considering the advantages with which he was launched in independent life. In justice to his parents, it must be stated that his lack of education was more his fault than theirs, for he was never of a studious nature, disliking the tedium of the school-room and preferring by long odds to be employed at work upon the farm to study at school. He was a wilful, strong-minded lad, and had his way in respect to his schooling, but the lessons of thrift and practical farming that he learned of his father made up in some degree to him for his lack of book learning.

Mr. Waters has been twice married. On March 27, 1877, he married Ridney Rhodes, and one child was born to them,—Lillie, who married Gus Hartman. Mrs. Waters died in January, 1880, and Mr. Waters later chose Lydia Coon to share his fortunes with him. Two children were born to them. Clarence, the eldest, is married to Cora Rickert, and they have one child,—Nellie Waters; and Harvey, married to Zella Herrell, the daughter of Beecher Herrell. They have two children.—Herrell L. and Charlotte Irene.

Mr. Waters and his family moved into Bunker Hill in 1910, purchasing their present home, which is one of the most comfortable in the town. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have a worthy part in the work of the various departments of service connected with the church.

**SOLOMON HOCKMAN.** The best years of the active business life of Solomon Hockman were divided about equally between his allegiance to the farming industry, in which he was reared, and his devotion to other interests along mercantile lines. He alternated between the two pursuits for years, successful in all his undertakings, but still not definitely settled in his enterprises, until he settled in Bunker Hill in 1905 and identified himself with the real estate business. He has remained constant to that enterprise, and has varied his activities by occasional seasons of public service. His standing in the community is an enviable one, and he is regarded as one of the leading spirits in Bunker Hill today.

Mr. Hockman was born in Hocking county, Ohio, on March 27, 1845, and is the son of David and Malinda (Frazee) Hockman. David Hockman was the son of Christian Hockman, a pioneer of Ohio, where he passed the best years of his life and there died. In 1845, as an infant, Solomon Hockman accompanied his parents to Indiana. They left their old Ohio home, and drove to their destination with a horse and wagon, settling first in Deer Creek township, where the father and an elder brother each took a claim of 160 acres of land. Neither had sufficient money in possession to improve the land and come into actual ownership, so the father disposed of his holdings and aided the brother to secure a deed to his quarter section, the father receiving 100 acres of the brother's land as compensation for his financial aid. Thus it was

that the Hockmans established the family in this part of Indiana, and here and hereabouts they have been prominent and successful ever since that early day.

Primitive conditions prevailed in their time, and one may well believe that settlers in that region earned to the uttermost farthing every bit of progress they made in the scale of material prosperity. The Hockmans, by dint of much strenuous labor, cleared a small plat where they erected a log house, of rough unhewn logs. A stick chimney and a mud fire place were features of the cabin, and the place, when habitable, was a comfortable and roomy dwelling for the pioneer family. The parents continued there until the time of their passing, the death of the father coming in October, 1910, and that of the mother some weeks later. The former was ninety-two when he died and the latter had reached the age of eighty-eight.

Solomon Hockman left home when he was twenty-two years old and established himself upon a small place of forty acres that he had purchased for himself with the fruits of his labor as a farm hand. He continued on the place for a year, and then he entered into the drug business in Macy. He later was four years in the same business in Mexico, Indiana, after which he yielded to the call of the farm, and returned to his place in the country, where he continued steadily until 1891. He farmed successfully and enjoyed his return to rural life while he was there, but in 1891 he felt impelled to turn again to business, and he established a merchandise business in Bunker Hill forthwith. After a year here he moved to Madison county and there engaged in a general merchandise business, continuing until 1896, when he once more made his way back to his farm, and continued in active farm life until 1905. In that year he came to Bunker Hill once more and engaged in the real estate business, in which he has realized a pleasing degree of success.

He has been active in Bunker Hill as town marshall, in which office he served for two years, and he is now serving as supervisor of the town, where he enjoys the high esteem of the entire community. Mr. Hockman has membership in a number of fraternal orders, among them the Odd Fellows, with whom he united in 1872 and has since been affiliated with Franklin Lodge, in Madison county, and the Knights of Pythias of Bunker Hill, since 1892.

Mr. Hockman was married in 1868 to Matilda C. Williamson, the daughter of John C. Williamson. They were married in Miami county, and their six children are living today. They are here briefly named as follows: Ulala married John Poff; Clyde, married and living in Indianapolis; Bessie is the wife of William McConnell; Malinda married W. D. Wilhelm; Roy C., married Bessie Stewart; and Omar W. is married to Alta VanDorn.

The son, Roy C. Hockman, is engaged in the men's furnishing business in Bunker Hill, and is climbing up in mercantile circles of the place. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias at Bunker Hill, and is prominent and popular with the best people of the community. The family is one that enjoys the regard of all who have a proper appreciation of character and principle, and their place in this community is one that is most secure.

**JESSE MUMAUGH.** The popular postmaster at Bunker Hill, Indiana, Jesse Mumaugh needs no introduction to the citizens of his community, who have ever found him a courteous, obliging and efficient public official. For some years prior to assuming the duties of his present office, he was widely known as an educator in Miami county, and although still a



young man has impressed himself favorably upon the community along various lines. Mr. Mumaugh belongs to a family that has been for many years connected with the agricultural development of Miami county. He was born in this county, March 26, 1889, a son of Daniel and Christina (Weaver) Mumaugh, and a grandson of Elias Mumaugh and Henry Weaver. His mother's people came to the United States from Germany, in 1866, and settled in Miami county, while on the paternal side, the family settled in this county during the late 'fifties, coming here from Ohio. Both Elias and Daniel Mumaugh followed agricultural pursuits in this county for many years, and the latter still carries on operations in Pipe Creek township, where he is the owner of a handsome property. He is one of the substantial men of his community, has ever stood high in public esteem, and has made a success of whatever he has undertaken. He and his wife have been the parents of three children, namely: Jesse; Elias, who married Chloris Webb; and Nellie, who became the wife of Frank Setty. All reside in Miami county.

Jesse Mumaugh was given only ordinary educational advantages in his native county, this being supplemented by three months of attendance at the normal school. He made the most of his opportunities, however, and when still a youth secured a teacher's license and entered upon his career as an educator. He was successfully engaged in training the young in Pipe Creek and Deer Creek townships until his appointment, in 1912, by Postmaster Frank Hitchcock, to the office of postmaster at Bunker Hill, having successfully passed the civil service examination. In the discharge of his duties he has proved capable, willing and courteous, having a high regard for the responsibilities of public service and exhibiting conscientious devotion to duty.

Mr. Mumaugh was married in Pipe Creek township, Miami county, Indiana, to Miss Clara Ethel Kelpinger, daughter of Aaron H. Kelpinger, and to this union there has been born one daughter: Hazel, February 20, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Mumaugh are consistent members of the Progressive Brethren Church, and have taken an active interest in its work. Both have numerous friends in the younger social circle of Bunker Hill, and have proven themselves worthy representatives of the old and honored families of which they are members.

ALONZO M. ZEHRING. One of the oldest and most prominent families of southern Miami county is represented by Alonzo M. Zehring, a progressive and enterprising young farmer of Deer Creek township. Mr. Zehring was identified with educational work for several years, but is now active manager of the farm near where he was born and reared. Well educated, broad minded, with a vision that extends beyond the borders of his farm, Mr. Zehring typifies the modern progressive spirit that has so changed farm life during the last two or three decades.

Alonzo M. Zehring was born March 17, 1880, and is a son of Benjamin and Ruth S. (Wininger) Zehring. The Zehring family in its various branches, has an interesting history, and other details will be found on other pages of this publication. The boyhood days of Alonzo Zehring were spent not unlike those of her farmer's sons in this locality. He went to school in the winter and at other times when his services could be spared from the home, and early became familiar with the principles of farm management, and labor. On reaching manhood he began his career as a teacher, and for several years was regularly employed in the duties and responsibilities of the school. Five years of this time were spent in the grades, and for two years he was principal of the Miami schools. In the meantime all his summers had been spent on the farm, and since leaving the work of the school room he has devoted all his energy to





*Reynolds photo*

“PLEASANT HILL STOCK AND POTTERY FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. ALONZO M. ZEHRING





agriculture, being associated with his father in the management of their fine place of 344 acres. He and his father have made many improvements, have substantial buildings, and have a place which is creditable to their enterprise, and which serves to keep up the high standard set by Miami agriculture.

On September 4, 1901, Alonzo M. Zehring married Miss Julia May Reyburn, a daughter of James W. and Effie (Humerickhouse) Reyburn. Mr. and Mrs. Zehring who have no children are members of the Miami Episcopal Methodist church, being active workers, and Mr. Zehring is superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally his relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic Order, and at this time he is secretary of Crescent Lodge No. 280, F. & A. M. at Miami. The pretty estate of Mr. and Mrs. Zehring is known as "Pleasant Hill Stock and Poultry Farm."

**THE MCCONNELL FAMILY.** In writing of those people who have been prominently identified with the growth and development of this county and of the community of Bunker Hill and vicinity, it is hardly possible to furnish anything like a complete record of the pioneers of the district without including the McConnell family. They have long been identified with the history of Miami county, the father of the present active generation having settled here in his young manhood, and occupied himself with general farming. Members of his family are to-day filling leading places in Bunker Hill and vicinity, and Clarke H. and William McConnell have been especially prominent in public life in the town and county.

James H. McConnell, the father of Clarke H. and William McConnell, was born near Dayton, Ohio, and he spent the last years of his life in Deer Creek township, Miami county, death claiming him in 1890. He came to this county in his young manhood and settled on a farm in Deer Creek township, which he entered from the government under the homestead law. He engaged in general farming, continuing in prosperity until the Rebellion came on, and in 1862 he enlisted in Company H, Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers. He saw long and hard service in the three years that followed, and continued until he was honorably discharged at the close of the war. Although he escaped without wounds or imprisonment, he suffered all the rest of his days from rheumatism, contracted from sleeping night after night in the trenches. This trouble was the ultimate cause of his death.

The farm, to which he returned when the war had ceased, consisted of 160 acres, all covered with a dense growth of timber that had little or no value in that day, as compared with timber values of today. It was considered a distinct detriment, rather than an asset, and the principal business of the owners for some time thereafter was in clearing away and burning the timber growth they found. They put up a log cabin, and this was the home of the family for some years, until, with the advance of the family fortunes, they felt further improvement incumbent upon them, and they finally replaced the old log house with a more modern and capacious home, adding suitable barns and other buildings, and building neat and appropriate fences all over the place. They attained a pleasing degree of prosperity, and in the last years of their residence there enjoyed all the comforts that their years of toil had won them. They were long members of the Christian church, and their children were raised in their faith. Mr. McConnell was for some years superintendent of the Sunday-school, and his life was a shining example to the young wherever he was known.

It was in 1866 that Mr. McConnell married Eliza, the daughter of



Abraham Billhimer, long known in Bunker Hill as a prosperous furniture dealer, as well as an undertaker and manufacturer of coffins. Mrs. McConnell was born in Washington township, in Miami county, and she survives her husband, making her present home in the city of Indianapolis. To them were born four children, concerning whom brief mention is made as follows: William E., Jessie B., Clarke H. and James B.

Mr. McConnell was a prominent Mason in his community and a member of the G. A. R. He was justice of the peace for a considerable period in Deer Creek township, and was known to be one of the most public-spirited and popular men in the town.

Concerning the children, Jessie B. married George Elvin, and upon his death contracted a second marriage, J. B. Reinacker becoming her husband; she had one child, Gladys, by her first marriage. James B. married Bessie Close, and they have one son, Hugo McConnell. William E. McConnell was born on March 20, 1873. He has been a farming man all his life, and is now the owner of a fine fifty acre farm just west of Bennett's Switch, which he gives careful attention to. He has been deputy county treasurer under Dan W. Condo, and gave excellent service in that office, but has never been an office seeker on his own responsibility. He is a part owner in the old homestead, which is held in common with other members of the family, and has a prominent position in Bunker Hill, where he is especially well known, and where he has membership in the Knights of Pythias. Clarke H. McConnell in his early manhood married Doskey, the daughter of Schuyler Chidester, and to them have been born three children, James S., Lela B., and Ivan E., all at home. For a number of years Mr. McConnell was engaged in the business of contracting in and about Bunker Hill, and while he has some time since given up active connection with the work, he still has his card with the trade union, and is entitled to all the courtesies and considerations it implies. His life has, for the most part, been devoted to farming, and he is now living on a well cultivated place of twenty acres. He sold his interest in the old home place some time ago, so that his present home place constitutes his only farming property in the county. It is all-sufficient for his needs, however, and he lives in comfort and content, secure in the good will and esteem of the best citizenship of the county. He is a man who is public spirited and progressive, and while he is not a man who has ever evinced any undue interest in political affairs, he has done his full duty as a citizen, and borne his full share in the civic responsibilities. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, but has no other fraternal affiliations.

**JOSEPH S. MILLS.** In a beautiful country home in Pipe Creek township, surrounded with all the comforts of life, Joseph S. Mills is spending the peaceful years of old age, after nearly half a century residence on this farm. The farm was originally purchased by his father about 1840 and has long been under the ownership of the Mills family.

Joseph S. Mills was born on the nineteenth of March, 1837, in Preble county, Ohio, and was a son of George Mills and a grandson of Joseph Mills. The maiden name of his mother was Elizabeth Swerer, a daughter of Peter Swerer. The father first located in Green county, Ohio, and then moved to Preble county, where his death occurred at the age of fifty-four years. Mr. Joseph S. Mills was reared in Ohio, where he attained a common school education, and first came to Miami county in 1864, remaining here for one year, and then returning for three years to Preble county, Ohio. As already mentioned the farm in Miami county had been acquired by his father, and Mr. Mills took the two

hundred and forty acres comprising the estate as his share of his inheritance. An interesting fact about the Mills' farm is the existence of an old log house, now standing in the background of the present modern improvements, and serving as a landmark to indicate the progress of civilization and the career of Mr. Mills. When he first located on the farm he put up that log house as his home in 1864, while the country thereabout was in woods, and it took three days of his labor to clear the ground on which the old log house was built. Many years of his industrious toil were applied to the farm, and as a result what was formerly timberland was converted into fertile field and while his own place was improving all the country about was progressing in similar fashion, so that the old time roads which he first knew became excellent pikes, and all the improvements of civilization took the place of the pioneer conditions. It is due to Mr. Mills to say that he has himself performed or personally directed most of the clearing on his farm, and all the buildings and other improvements stand as a monument to his steady industry. In 1906 he moved away from the farm to Bunker Hill, but in October, 1912, in the meantime having completed a new and modern country home, he returned to the farm, where he now resides. He has given attention to the duties of citizenship, and during the erection of the present court house, was a member of the county council.

In 1861 Mr. Mills married Freda M. Dodge, a daughter of Francis and Clarissa (Jaqua) Dodge. Her mother's people came from Pennsylvania, while her father's were from New York. Francis Dodge was a physician by profession and died while attending patients during an epidemic of cholera. Mr. and Mrs. Mills are the parents of six children, whose names are as follows: George Francis, deceased; William Clarence, deceased; Charles L., who married Barbara Shively; Ella Florence, at home; Marion Elbert, a civil engineer in Oklahoma City; and Elizabeth Ethel at home. Mrs. Mills is a member of the German Baptist church. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a believer of the Universalist doctrine.

**JOHN H. DICE.** The energies and sturdy qualities of German ancestry appear in the Dice family, which has been identified with Erie township of Miami county for nearly seventy years. Mr. John H. Dice now occupies the homestead which his father acquired as a result of much industry during his early career in this county, and it is one of the pleasant and highly improved farms of Erie township.

The father was the late Michael Dice, whose death occurred in Miami county, January 6, 1913. He for many years stood high in the esteem of his community, and was one of the worthy pioneers of this county. A son of Valentine Dice, Michael, was born in Alsace, Germany, September 27, 1822, Alsace at that time being a portion of France. He was ninety years, three months and nine days of age when death came to him. Michael Dice came to the United States with his parents when he was about three years of age. They located near Winchester, Ohio, where Michael Dice grew to young manhood. In 1843 from that state he walked and drove two cows the entire distance of about three hundred miles to Miami county. In those days the only modes of transportation were by the primitive highways or by canal boats. Along the Wabash and Erie Canal at the time the faithful mule, driven by the tow-boy was furnishing the power to pull boats up and down, and that was the great artery of traffic through Miami county. On arriving in Peru township in 1844, Michael Dice found work at the home of a farmer, and while there the acquaintance with the farmer's daughter ripened into affection, and the hired man and the daughter



finally were married. This marriage occurred December 21, 1845. Miss Elizabeth Barnett, who thus united her fortunes with those of Michael Dice, was a faithful wife and a devoted mother, and their married companionship was prolonged to the unusual period of almost sixty years. The death of Mrs. Dice occurred June 6, 1905. After their marriage Michael Dice and wife bought a little land of their own, comprising a tract included within the present homestead of John H. Dice, and lying just across the road from the residence of the son John. All the land was in the timber when Michael Dice first took possession, and his first home was a log building. He had peculiar misfortunes in his early home, and several successive log houses were burned down, and each time rebuilt. At the present time a log house still stands on the farm, but it was erected by Mr. John Dice. As a pioneer in this county, Michael Dice assumed his full share of the task of transforming the wilderness into the beautiful farm district of today. The late Michael Dice was identified with the United Brethren Church at Erie almost from its beginning. He was ever an honored, faithful member of its communion. His life and the life of the church were so interwoven that any benefit conferred upon the church contributed to his own happiness. When well past the age of fourscore and ten, his life of service to home, to community and to church came to an end, and he rested from his labors, and his works will long follow him in the memory of his children and his many friends.

Michael Dice and wife were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters. The daughters were Mary C., Elizabeth E., Sarah A. and Margaret E. The sons were George V., Andrew M., Jacob W. and Michael D. Those already deceased are Andrew M., Sarah A., Michael D. and George V. There are also thirty grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren of the late Michael Dice.

Mr. John Dice was born on the farm that he now occupies, on March 2, 1856. He was reared in Miami county, attended the neighborhood schools, and remained at home assisting his father until he was twenty-three years old. He then left home to follow the carpenter trade, but later returned and was manager of the home place. After his father was taken ill he conducted the estate under shares, and finally succeeded to the proprietorship of the old homestead. Mr. Dice has eighty acres of land, and during his management has done a great deal of improving. All the present buildings, including a comfortable house and barns, and fences, are the result of his labors.

On the present farm occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dice was celebrated the marriage, September 7, 1882, of John Dice to Louisa Oldfield, a daughter of Elijah and Rachael (Ivins) Oldfield. Three children have been born to their union, namely: Claude A., born October 23, 1883, married Myrtie Engleman, and they have one boy Alton A.; Cora M., born April 20, 1885, is the wife of Harry Farr; Sylvia J., born January 18, 1893, is unmarried. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Dice have all received their diplomas from the public schools and are young people of unusual intelligence and culture. The son, now a resident of north Peru, has for six years been engaged with the Wabash Railroad, and is doing well. He is affiliated with the Loyal Order of Moose. Mr. and Mrs. Farr are residents of Wabash county, where he is a substantial farmer. Mrs. Cora Farr not only had the advantages of the common schools, but studied music and taught for some time before her marriage. The daughter Sylvia has taken vocal instruction. Mrs. Dice was born in Wabash county, October 18, 1859, and is the fourth in a family of nine children, six sons and three daughters, five of those chil-







*Reynolds*  
PHOTO.

“FOREST GRANGE”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. WALTER S. BOND

dren, being still living. Both of her parents are deceased. She was educated in the common schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Dice and children are members of the United Brethren church in Erie township. He was a charter member of the Horse Thief Association of Miami county. In politics Mr. Dice is a Democrat. The pretty rural estate of Mr. and Mrs. Dice is known as "The Old Homestead Grange."

**WILLIAM H. ZIMMERMAN.** A former county treasurer of Miami county, and now one of the proprietors and publishers of the *Miami County Sentinel*, Mr. Zimmerman has been in the newspaper field in this county for fifteen years, and has been well known as a business man, public official and publisher.

William H. Zimmerman was born in Madison county, Indiana, May 30, 1864, and when less than a year old was brought by his parents John F. and Nancy J. (Judd) Zimmerman to Miami county. The late John F. Zimmerman was a native of Randolph county, this state and learned the carpenter's trade which continued to be his occupation until he was about thirty-five years old. He then embarked in mercantile pursuits at Amboy, Miami county, and for a number of years was one of the well known merchants in that vicinity. He subsequently became railroad station agent at Amboy and continued as such until his death in 1901. His wife passed away in 1877. They were the parents of three children, one of whom is now deceased. The late Mr. Zimmerman was a man of fair business ability and was particularly noted for his square dealing and unblemished character.

William H. Zimmerman was reared at Amboy and was educated there in the public schools. He learned telegraphy as his first occupation and worked at that for about two years. Subsequently he went into the hardware business at Amboy, and in 1890 came to Peru following an appointment as deputy county treasurer. After serving as deputy for two years in 1892 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, taking up his official duties in 1893. In 1894 he was reelected, so that he gave service in the office of county treasurer for four years in all. In 1897 Mr. Zimmerman became associated with Mr. F. A. Haimbaugh as editor and publisher of the *Miami County Sentinel*.

Owing to ill health Mr. Haimbaugh retired from the business in 1899, and was succeeded by Frank K. McElheny. Messrs. Zimmerman and McElheny have since conducted the destinies of the *Sentinel*, and made it one of the most influential papers of the county.

Mr. Zimmerman is a Democrat in politics, and fraternally is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He was married August 27, 1893, to Miss Effie Jones, and they have three children: Esther, Paul and Russell. Both Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman belong to the Society of Friends.

**THE BOND FAMILY.** A history of Miami county would not be regarded as complete without some mention of men of the Bond family, who have been identified with the county since the early days of the nineteenth century. Here they have given their lives, in each succeeding generation, to the upbuilding and developing of the district they called their home, and the work they began something like a hundred years ago has been carried on worthily by each generation as the years have passed and others of the name have come to take their places in the work their fathers established before them.

Isaac Bond, who is the first of the family whom we shall speak of at length, was the eldest of two brothers, Isaac and Jesse, Jr., who came



here in 1845 and settled on a piece of land given him by his father, Jesse Bond, Sr., who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, on February 28, 1820. The mother of Isaac Bond was Phoebe (Commons) Bond, and he was one of their eleven children. Reaching years of maturity he married Catherine Eargood, and in January, 1845, made his advent into Miami county, at that time establishing himself as a family man upon the land his father had given him. On April 27, 1849, the young wife died, leaving three children, named as follows: Lewis, born October 15, 1844; Arthur W., born December 10, 1846; and William, who was born on November 27, 1848, and died on March 22, 1876, unmarried. Of these children, Lewis will be mentioned at length in a later portion of this family sketch, and it may be said at this juncture that Arthur was twice married and that he eventually moved to the east, where he died, leaving one daughter, Darline Bond by name. Isaac Bond's second marriage took place on November 10, 1852, when Millicent Mendenhall became his wife, and two daughters were born to them, namely: Clara Ellen, born June 3, 1856, and who married John Dukes and died at Rocky Ford, Colorado, on February 22, 1907, the mother of four children, named as follows: Milton E., Bertha M., now deceased, Lewis B. and William; and Ludia M. Bond, born on April 7, 1865, who married on May 20, 1890, James M. Faris, and is now a resident of Peru.

Isaac Bond followed farming all his life, and in that enterprise he gained a high place in Miami county. He was industrious, economical and progressive, and largely increased his original property of one hundred and sixty acres given him by his father when he established himself as the head of a family, so that at one time he owned four hundred and eighty-four acres. He was well known for his innate honesty, and the faithfulness with which he lived up to his every obligation, however slight. He died on July 19, 1890. Mr. Bond was a Republican, but never sought public office. He was a Quaker in his religious faith and a staunch advocate of the cause of temperance all his life. Millicent Bond, his widow, resides in Peru, and on March 1, 1913, celebrated the eightieth anniversary of her birth.

Lewis Bond, the son of Isaac and Millicent Bond, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, on October 15, 1844, and was therefore a mere infant when brought to Miami county with his parents in 1845. During his early years he worked on the home farm and attended the neighboring district schools, finishing his education with a term of study at Earlham College. Following that, he engaged in school teaching, in which he would doubtless have been very successful, judging from the fine start he had, but he was one who turned to farming from the genuine love he had for the life and work, and he made that his ultimate calling. He was successful in his enterprise and enjoyed a high place in his community as one of the most prosperous and capable men identified with it.

Mr. Bond was a member of no religious denomination, but accepted the doctrine of his parents, who were Quakers of an old established Quaker family. He was broad in his views, tolerant and charitable at all times, and was always a liberal contributor of his means to the support of the various organizations of a religious nature in his community, as well as to all worthy public enterprises. In his politics he was a Republican, and notwithstanding the fact that the county had a nominal Democratic majority of something like six hundred, in 1895 he was elected and served one term as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, as well as serving as a member of the County Council for two terms. His public spirit and his alert and progressive nature

dictated his hearty support of every measure calculated to result in the benefit of the county and his community, and he ever proved himself a citizen of the finest type in all the years of his activity in Miami county. He was the owner of a three hundred acre farm when he died and his was one of the finest and most productive farming properties in the Eel River Valley.

Mr. Bond was married on October 23, 1872, to Miss Iona Scott, in Wayne county, Indiana. She was the daughter of John and Martha Jane (Willitts) Scott, of that county. Three children were born to their marriage: Walter S., who is mentioned at length later in this review; Nellie J. and Blanche B. Bond. The first named daughter was born on September 3, 1876. Her marriage to Gilbert Hood took place on February 23, 1899, and she is the mother of two children,—Margaret Iona and Joseph Lewis. The second daughter, Blanche B., was born on June 23, 1890, and was married on December 23, 1900, to Dr. F. E. Graft. They have two children also, Martha Vernice and Lewis Bond Graft. Mrs. Iona Bond is deceased, her death having occurred recently in the city of Peru.

Lewis Bond died on July 14, 1912, secure in the universal regard of those who knew him. His widow yet survives him and makes her home in Peru.

Walter Scott Bond, the son of Lewis and the grandson of Isaac Bond, was born in Jefferson county township on August 23, 1873, and was reared on his father's farm to years of manhood. He acquired his education in the public schools, finishing with one year in the Mexico high school, after which he took up his abode on the home place. Upon the death of his father he became the owner of a part of the home place, and he is now in possession of one hundred and ninety-seven acres in the township. This land he cultivates in connection with general stock raising and is as successful in the enterprise as his father was in the years of his long agricultural activity here.

Mr. Bond was married on April 15, 1899, to Miss Mary E. Fisher, the daughter of Isaac Fisher, one of the old settlers of Miami county, and now living in Denver, Indiana. One daughter has been born to Walter Scott Bond and his wife; Vernice Marie, born on June 14, 1903.

Mr. Bond is a Republican in his politics, but has never aspired to public office, content to let his citizenship manifest itself at the polls, and in his ever prevalent public spiritedness. He devotes himself almost exclusively to his farming operations, and is fast making a name for himself among the more successful men of the community. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bond is known as "Forest Grange."

ISAAC FISHER. One of the best known men in Jefferson township or in Miami county is Isaac Fisher, a resident of these parts for nearly seventy years, and a pioneer citizen of Miami county. His life here has been devoted to agricultural interests and activities, and he achieved a distinct success in his chosen field of enterprise. Some few years ago he felt himself possessed of a competency sufficient to permit him to retire from the stress of farm life, and he has since lived quietly, enjoying to the uttermost the fruits of his earlier toils, and the esteem and friendship of a wide circle of the best people of the county. He is a man whose life has been a definite force for good in the community wherein he has lived and moved and had his being, and few there are in the county today who have spent more years in the development and upbuilding of their home communities than has Mr. Fisher.

Isaac Fisher was born on January 3, 1827, in Franklin county, Virginia, a son of Jonothan and Susannah (Neff) Fisher. When he was



about six years of age he accompanied his parents to Preble county, Ohio, and there they continued to reside until 1841, when they moved to Miami county. They made the trip in the manner in which the homeseeker traveled in those early days,—by wagon or prairie schooner,—and reaching this county they settled some two miles south of Chili, in Richland township. There the parents passed their remaining days, the father dying in 1848. Isaac Fisher was the eldest of the ten children of his parents, and when the father died, he, as a dutiful son should, gave his energies to the maintenance of the family. He had been reared in the rugged, pioneer life of the frontier incidental to that early date, and his opportunities for the securing of anything like an adequate education were limited, and indeed, well nigh impossible. Until he was twenty-seven years old Mr. Fisher continued as the head of the household, after the death of the father, and at the time, younger sons being old enough to assume the care of the home, he launched out independently for himself. He was married in 1854 to Miss Mary Lybrook, and two children were born to them. One of them died in infancy and the other, Joseph L., is now a resident of Kokomo, Indiana. The death of Mrs. Fisher followed during the years of her young wifehood, and later Mr. Fisher married Sarah Moss, the daughter of David Moss, of Cass county, Indiana. Nine children blessed their union, all of whom reached years of maturity, and who are named as follows: Simon, Sylvester, Leander, Susannah, Mary, Lavina E., Jennie N., Amos and Nora C.

Mr. Fisher devoted himself to farming activities until recent years, when he retired and now makes his home in Denver. Mr. Fisher is a Republican, and has been a member of the Church of the Brethren since his young manhood. On April 21, 1898, he suffered the loss of his faithful wife, and he has since lived quietly alone, depending upon associations with his sons and daughters and their younger families for the cheer and sunshine of his declining years.

**WILLIAM H. LONG.** Resident of Peru for more than a quarter of a century and long continued activity as a blacksmith has constituted Mr. Long one of the old and honored citizens, and he enjoys a position of thorough respect and esteem as a man of high moral worth and individual ability.

William H. Long was born on a farm in Cass county, Indiana, July 31, 1865, and is a son of William and Jane (Berry) Long. His grandfather was William Long, one of the pioneer settlers of Cass county. The family has thus for three generations been residents in this section of Indiana, and the name has always been associated with honorable effort and straightforward business integrity.

William H. Long was reared to manhood in Cass county, where he attained his education in the district schools. When he was a little more than twenty years of age he left the old home farm and came to Peru. Here for three years he learned his trade by a full apprenticeship under John H. Miller. At the completion of his apprenticeship he went into business for himself and his first shop was established in south Peru, just across the highway bridge. About 1898 he moved to his present place of business on East Canal Street, and he has been located at that place for the past fifteen years.

In politics Mr. Long has been an active Republican and during his residence in south Peru was elected trustee of Washington township, serving five years and three months in that position and giving faithful and intelligent service in behalf of the public interests intrusted to his care. On April 10, 1889, he married Miss Nora Sharp. The two

daughters born of their union are Jennie M. who is a graduate of the Peru high school and at the present time is organist in the Presbyterian church; and Dorothy A., who is now a student in the city school. Mrs. Long is a daughter of James Sharp, now deceased who for many years was a farmer in Washington township, and both by character and activity held a place of foremost influence in the citizenship of that locality. James Sharp was a native of Scotland. Fraternally Mr. Long is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic Fraternity, and he and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Long has for the past nine years served as a trustee.

**ALBION S. RAMSEY.** One of the fine country homes of Miami county, which for years has given a distinctive character of prosperity and well ordered enterprise to the country life of this section is the Ramsey homestead of Butler township, a place which has been under one name since it was taken up as government land more than seventy years ago, and of which Albion S. Ramsey is the present enterprising proprietor. Mr. Ramsey became successful after an apprenticeship of hard work and thorough experience in farm life, and at the present time is considered one of the most substantial and influential men of his locality.

Albion S. Ramsey was born at Markle, in Huntington county, Indiana, December 28, 1862. His father was Jeremiah Ramsey and his grandfather Samuel Ramsey. The maiden name of his mother was Anna E. Swimley a daughter of Jacob Swimley. The father was a Methodist minister, an old-time circuit rider, who traveled about the country, preaching the gospel and devoting most of his life to that arduous work. The mother of Albion S. Ramsey died when he was eight days old and thereafter he was reared in the home of his grandfather Samuel Ramsey. The grandfather had taken up government land in Miami county, in 1841, and the one hundred and sixty acres in the farm was originally known as canal land, and cost one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. When it first came into the proprietorship of the Ramseys, it was covered with timber, and grandfather put up a cabin in the midst of the woods, was the first home in this county, and was later replaced with a more modern building. Grandfather Ramsey lived in the old cabin home for some nine or ten years, and continued to live on the place until his death on March 2, 1882. Through his own labors and management, he has done all the clearing, and was one of the sturdy pioneers whose labors effected so much for the subsequent welfare of not only his own descendants, but for the entire community. Since the death of his grandfather, Albion S. Ramsey continued the management of the old homestead, and has made excellent use of his patrimony, and has continued to improve and make his acres more productive every year.

After his marriage he began housekeeping in the old house where his grandfather had died. He and his wife have established an excellent home, and in the past two years have erected a complete set of new buildings, including an attractive and comfortable residence besides many outbuildings and barns. Mr. Ramsey has also done a great deal of ditching and fencing, and has put most of the land in cultivation. Grandfather Ramsey was a member of the Methodist church, and the grandson also attends that church. At one time he was affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and in politics was an active supporter of the Republican ticket until 1912, when he voted for the Bull Moose candidate.

On November 15, 1893, Mr. Ramsey married Miss Iowa Leland, a daughter of John D. and Martha (Misner) Leland. Six children have



blessed their marriage but Paul died in infancy. The others are: Roy L., who married Hazel Fisher, daughter of John and Mary Fisher; Jerome L., Charles M., Elbert Harald, and Martha E. The children have been liberally provided with educational advantages, and in school and in home have been trained and instructed in the principles and virtues which make worthy manhood and womanhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey have one of the old parchment deeds, given under the hand and seal of President Zachary Taylor, which is a valuable souvenir in this home, and the second deed of the kind found in Miami county, Indiana. Mrs. Ramsey is a native of Wabash county, born May 23, 1876, the Centennial year, and the oldest of eight children, six sons and two daughters born to John B. and Martha C. (Miser) Leland. All the children are living. Four brothers are residents in Oklahoma, and the remainder of the children are living in Indiana. Mr. Leland was a native of Ohio, but a resident of Indiana from a child. He was a veteran of the Civil war, a member of the Army of the Potomac, and was a soldier three years.

He is living at the present time aged sixty-eight years. He is a Democrat politically, and a member of the G. A. R. Mrs. Leland was a resident of Indiana, and she died in 1899, aged forty-two years. Mrs. Ramsey is a member of the Methodist church at old Sante Fe, Indiana. The homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey is known as "The Maples."

**MARSHALL JACKSON.** Among local county officers in Indiana there is none of greater importance and with more opportunity for useful service to the community than that of township trustee. The trustee has the practical management of the school affairs of his township, besides many other local administrative duties. In Butler township, since 1908 this important post has been held by Marshall Jackson, the most progressive and successful farmer citizen of the locality, whose present estate comprises one hundred and twenty-one acres of land, which he has developed both as a business proposition and as a home for himself and family.

Marshall Jackson was born in Ripley county, Indiana, July 7, 1865. His parents were James and Ellen (Laswell) Jackson, and his paternal grandfather was Sam'l Jackson, and the maternal grandfather Thomas Laswell. Mr. Jackson has been a resident of Miami county since February 1895, having come to this locality from Tipton county. He first settled in Pipe Creek township, later moved to Harrison township, and from there moved to Butler. He owned a farm in each of the other townships, but sold and in 1901 bought his present place in Butler township. Since taking possession he has improved his farm in many ways. He has done a great deal of building, has replaced and strengthened the fencing about the farm, and has also drained most of the low spots in the ground by tile ditching.

The father of Mr. Jackson died July 19, 1880, and the mother November 15, 1878, their last years being spent in Ripley county. Mr. Jackson has membership in the Christian church, and is an elder in his society. His parents were both members of the Baptist faith. He was finally affiliated with the Knights of Honor, but gave up his affiliations since there were no lodges accessible for his attendance. He was at one time also a member of the Improved Order of Redmen. In 1908 Mr. Jackson was elected trustee of Butler township, and has served by reelection in that office to the present time. In politics he is a Democrat. He was finally appointed drainage commissioner in Butler township, and in that capacity did much to improve the agricultural development of his locality.

On July 21, 1886, Mr. Jackson married Mary S. Ross, who was born in Tipton county, Indiana, March 5, 1869, a daughter of Joseph H. and Clarinda (Small) Ross and the sixth of their nine children, four sons and five daughters, and there are five of the children living in Indiana. Mr. Ross was a native of Ohio and was young in years when he came to Indiana. He received a good common school education and his life was devoted to agricultural. Politically he was a Jackson Democrat, a strong advocate of Democratic doctrine. He died in 1877. Mrs. Ross was a native of the "Blue Grass State," Kentucky and was a devout Christian. Mrs. Jackson was reared, educated and married in her native county. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jackson are as follows: Clara May, who received her diploma from the public schools in the Class of 1907, and also received musical instruction, wedded Guy T. Cunningham, a practical agriculturist and they reside in Washington township; Raymond F., who received his diploma in 1907 from the public schools and he is an agriculturist, wedded Miss Esther Wolfe, daughter of David B. Wolfe; Ruth M., who received her diploma in 1908, and has taken music, wedded Sylvan Cunningham and they have one little daughter, Evelyn Irene; Flonnie B., a graduate of the public schools in 1911 also spent two years in high school work and has studied music; Velma M., a member of the 8th grade and Earl S., the youngest is also in the 8th grade. The homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson is known as "Locust Grove." Mr. Jackson as trustee of Butler township has performed his part as an official. He has six good schools and employs ten teachers. The Peoria school has four teachers and Santa Fe has two. The township of Butler anticipates erecting a fine \$10,000 Township High School on section 9 and it is expected to be ready for occupancy for the spring term of 1914. Besides his numerous duties in the schools, during his official career Mr. Jackson has also caused the erection of six concrete bridges and has built seven miles of pike road in Butler township besides many miles of free gravel roads.

DR. OMER U. CARL of Peru is a native of Indiana. He was born January 28th, 1872, on a farm in Cass county, just across the line separating the two counties. He is a son of Martin L. and Sarah A. (Branneman) Carl, the former a Pennsylvanian by birth, the latter born in Miami county. The father came to Cass county in early manhood and lived all his adult life in this state. He married after coming to Indiana and in the fall of 1872 moved to Peru where he worked as a carpenter and contractor until his death, February 4th, 1908. He was a man noted for his sterling honesty and integrity. He never accumulated wealth, possibly because of too close application of the Golden Rule to the business affairs of life. Few builders who ever came to Miami county were his equal in ability to do first class carpentering. He was a man of strong convictions and of a decided temperament. He never indulged in the use of liquor or tobacco and while of staunch principles never created antagonisms in consequence of his opinions. He became a Republican upon the birth of the party in 1856 and was an active adherent to its principles from then until his death. In religion he was a simple Christian but a member of no religious denomination. For years, however, he was a regular attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church. His wife died August 7th, 1911. Dr. Carl is the third of their four children, all of whom are living.

Omer U. Carl was reared in Peru and primarily educated in its public schools, graduating from the high school in 1890. In September of the same year he entered De Pauw University, completing the work of



his junior year in 1893. While a student in De Pauw University his work in the scientific department created the inclination to study medicine and during these years he did preparatory reading in vacation periods under the direction of Drs. Griswold, Ward and Brenton. He entered the Miami Medical College of Cincinnati in the fall of 1893, graduating in April, 1896. Soon after graduating, he embarked in the practice of his profession at Waupecong in Miami county, where he resided until removing to Peru in October, 1903. He opened an office in that city in January, 1904, and has been actively engaged in the practice ever since. Dr. Carl is a Republican and while not active in the ranks of his party takes a decided stand in all matters that appertain to the welfare of the city where he has elected to spend the remainder of his life. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias and is honored and respected in the membership of these orders.

Dr. Carl was married September 22nd, 1898, to Miss Clara S. Dawes of Peru. Three children have been born to them, Cecil Churchill, who died in infancy; Margeret M. and Catherine C. Carl. Both Dr. and Mrs. Carl are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Carl was reared in Peru and it may be mentioned that she was graduated from the Peru High School as a member of the same class from which Dr. Carl was graduated in 1890.

**MILO P. CONN.** Perhaps no man comes into closer contact with the farmers in any agricultural community than does the general merchant who supplies their needs. He it is who knows and understands their financial condition, for extending credit to them during the off seasons, as he is often obliged to do, he receives true statements of their prospects. In his establishment the farmers gather to discuss the various important matters of the day, and very often movements that have a direct bearing on the welfare of the community are inaugurated in the general merchant's place of business. Among the citizens of Loree, Indiana, none stand higher in public confidence and esteem than does M. P. Conn, proprietor of the general store, elevator and coal yard, ex-postmaster, and trustee of Clay township. Mr. Conn belongs to the class of citizens who have been able through their own efforts to build up large enterprises from small beginnings, and his career has been one of commendable and well-directed effort.

Mr. Conn is a native of the Hoosier State, born in Wabash county, November 27, 1867, a son of John S. and Elizabeth (Manning) Conn. He was about ten years of age when he was brought to Miami county, and here, in the country schools, completed the education that had been started in Wabash county. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, and for a time in young manhood rented land and carried on operations of his own, but on March 1, 1894, entered the mercantile field as the proprietor of a small store. Mr. Conn's start in business was a modest one, as his original stock invoiced about five or six hundred dollars, but he was determined and persistent in his efforts to succeed, and his activities were so well directed that he soon began to attract trade from all over the countryside. As his trade grew, he enlarged his quarters and put in a larger and better stock, carefully selecting his goods according to the needs of the people of his community, who were not slow to appreciate the efforts that were being made in their behalf. Mr. Conn soon saw the opportunity for success in an elevator and coal business, and, having the courage of his convictions, established these lines of business at Loree, where they have proved of great convenience to the people. He has met with success in each of his enterprises, and is now



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PHOTO

RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. ALLO P. CONN





considered one of the substantial men of his section. Probably if asked the secret of his success, Mr. Conn would give as the principal reason that he has always worked faithfully and industriously. This, in connection with the fact that he has always been honorable in his business dealings and that he has inherent business qualifications, spells the reason for his rapid rise in fortune. In April, 1894, he was appointed postmaster at Loree, a position he held until January 1, 1909. In 1908 the citizens of Clay township elected him to a place as the township trustee, where he is ably serving the community in which he has lived for so many years. He has shown some interest in fraternal work, and at this time is a member of Crescent Lodge No. 280, of the Masonic order, and of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Bunker Hill No. 299. With his family, Mr. Conn attends the Brethren Church.

On September 26, 1889, Mr. Conn was married to Miss Louville Long, daughter of Jephtha Long, and they have had children as follows: Arvel; Vern; Mary, who married Ray Kunkle; Mildred; John Bart; Everette L. and Omar P.

**JOHN Q. A. HOWES.** Seventy-eight years of the eighty-four years of John Q. A. Howes' life were spent in Miami county, and when he passed on at his home in Jefferson township he had the distinction of being one of the oldest residents, as well as one of the most highly esteemed, in the county. A farming man, he gave the best years of his life to the furtherance of the agricultural industry in his community, and his success in his chosen field of activity was one well worthy of the name. Mr. Howes was born in Warren county, Ohio, on March 28, 1828, and he was the youngest of the nine children born to the union of Henry and Ruth (Blaisdell) Howes. The father, Henry Howes, was born in Vermont on April 12, 1784, a son of Joseph Howes, who was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and a man of English birth and ancestry. Early in life Henry Howes took up his abode in Vermont and there he met and married his wife, whose father, Perret Blaisdell, was also a soldier of the Continental line. Thus is established the claim of the family to Colonial ancestry, and their right to membership in the various patriotic organizations dependent upon service in the War for Independence.

From Vermont Henry Howes moved with his young family to Cincinnati, Ohio, and thence to Warren county, in the same state, and there they remained until 1836, in which year they came to Miami county, Indiana. Mr. Howes was a blacksmith by trade, and he followed that occupation until he came to Indiana, his activities after that period being devoted to the farming industry. He did not carry on his farming on an extensive scale at any time, however, but gave some time and attention to the blacksmith business. When he settled in Miami county he bought a piece of land in Section 32, in Jefferson township, about a mile east of Mexico, and there he passed his remaining days. Both he and his wife died in Jefferson township, where they enjoyed for years the hearty good will and genuine friendship of the entire community. He was a Whig in his politics, and with his wife had membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

John Q. A. Howes was but six years old when he accompanied his parents and others of the family to the Miami county farm home. Of the nine children, of which he was the youngest, it may be mentioned here that all are now deceased, he having been the last to pass away. Mr. Howes' boyhood days were passed in helping to grub, clear, plant and harvest, much after the manner of other boys of that day, and such education as he received in the schools of that period was undeni-



ably slender. He by no means passed his life without adding a vast store of knowledge to himself, for he was a constant reader and a most excellent observer, and nothing escaped his notice that might prove of future benefit to him. He was about twenty-one years old when on April 19, 1849, he married Orpha Murden, the daughter of Charles and Martha (Williams) Murden, both natives of England where they were married, and who settled on Section 20, Jefferson township, Miami county, in 1834. Mrs. Howes and two sisters, Mrs. William Smith and Martha Howes, the widow of Abel Howes, of Peru, are the only members of the Murden family now living in Miami county.

Mr. Howes, like his father before him, was an exceedingly industrious man. His early life was passed in general farming, but in later years he devoted himself extensively to stock-raising, in which he gained a pleasing success and prominence in the town and county. A Republican in his politics, he gave stanch support to the activities of that party in so far as his influence and abilities extended. He was a Methodist, reared in that faith by his worthy parents, and he ever gave loyal support to the church of his faith. He was a man who commanded universal respect and esteem because of his many sterling qualities and his blameless and altogether upright life, and when he died at his home on February 13, 1912, the town lost one of its finest citizens, and a man who left a strong impress for good upon the social and civic life of the community. His widow still survives him, and is now living in the village of Denver, in the eighty-fifth year of her life. She was born in Maryland, in Baltimore county, on March 22, 1828, and was six days older than her husband. She is the mother of three sons,—William Henry, Timothy and Sheridan.

**WILLIAM SIMONS AND CHARLES E. SIMONS.** The name of Simons is closely associated with that of Miami county, Indiana, since for three generations members of this family have taken an active and prominent part in the affairs of this county. Both William Simons and his son, Charles E. Simons, have held prominent places in the agricultural life of the community, and in the death of the father, Miami county lost one of her best citizens. He left, however, a worthy representative of the honorable old family name, in his son, who has made a success of his life and has won the respect and friendship of all with whom he has come in contact.

William Simons was born in Miami county, Indiana, on the 12th of April, 1848, Jefferson township being his native township. His father, Elmore Simons, was born in Virginia and was there married, and began life as a farmer. He emigrated with his family to Miami county, Indiana, during the early days of the county, locating first on section 25, in Jefferson township, and later removing to section 31 where he lived until his death. William Simons grew up on this backwoods farm, and a farmer's son of that early day had little opportunity for an education. His educational advantages were confined to the old fashioned log schoolhouse, and the age at which he left school was an early one. He married Nancy J. Surbur and began the battle of life with little or no help, save that which came from his own strong nature. He became known as an extremely hard-working man, and, indeed, it was this very anxiety of his to provide a comfortable home and give his children a good education, that led to his breaking down under the strain. He was too unselfish, never sparing himself, and the burden which he carried was too heavy, for he died at the comparatively early age of fifty-seven years. William and Nancy Simons had three children: Forest Montell, a resident of Jefferson township and unmarried;

Robert T., married and a resident of Mexico, Miami county; and Charles E. Mrs. Simons is living and resides at Mexico, Indiana.

Charles E. Simons, the youngest of his parents' children, was born on the old home place on section 31, Jefferson township, on the 31st of July, 1876. He attended the common schools of the county and then entered the high school at Mexico, where he was a student for three years. When he was about seventeen years of age he began life for himself, starting in the butchering business. Not caring for this work he next became a fireman on the Wabash Railroad, being thus employed for two years, but when his father died he returned to the farm, and he has been engaged in farming since that time. He inherited eighty acres of land on section 25, in Jefferson township, from his father and here he began the agricultural life. He continued to operate this farm until 1910 when he traded it for one containing eighty acres on section 33. This he in turn traded in 1912 for 220 acres in Wabash county. In February, 1913, Mr. Simons removed to Denver, Indiana, where he has since made his home.

In politics Mr. Simons is a Democrat, and in the fraternal world he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In 1908 he was elected a member of the Board of Township Trustees, and has filled this office since that time.

On the 15th of April, 1900, Mr. Simons was married to Miss Elsie M. McClain, a daughter of William S. and Sarah E. (Sullivan) McClain, of Cass county, Indiana. Mrs. Simons is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**FREDERICK M. ROBERTS.** One of the honored veterans of the Civil war who went out from Indiana is Frederick M. Roberts, who is one of the prominent farmer citizens of Butler township. Mr. Roberts is a native son of Indiana, and has made a creditable record not only as a soldier but as a citizen and business man. He was born in Fountain county, Indiana, August 3, 1842, a son of Archibald and Phebe (Allenduff) Roberts. His paternal grandfather was Archibald Roberts, and his maternal grandfather was Frederick Allenduff.

The early life of Mr. Roberts was spent on a farm, and while growing up he received a country school education, such as was afforded to the boys and girls of Indiana during the forties and fifties. He had almost reached maturity when the war broke out. On the sixth of July, 1863, he enlisted in Company D of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Indiana regiment. That was a six-month regiment, and was organized at Lafayette. From there it went to Fort Dearbon in Michigan, then to Detroit, from there embarked on the steamer Morning Star and crossed the lake to Cleveland, and from there by rail to Cincinnati, and Camp Dick Robinson. There the regiment was brigaded with other regiments, and began the march overland to Tennessee. The regiment during the winter of 1863-64 did a great deal of scouting and marching duty, and was in two skirmishes. In the skirmish at Walker's Ford, a soldier of Company F was killed and two members of the Company to which Mr. Roberts belonged. During the course of the winter five members of the regiment were taken prisoners. On March 1, 1864, Mr. Roberts was mustered out with the regiment, and returned to Indiana and remained about a year. Then on February 10, 1865, he enlisted in Company F of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Indiana. Company F was organized in Camp Carrington, at Indianapolis, and served in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. From Harper's Ferry the regiment marched to Winchester, and was at Charleston,



Virginia, when Lee surrendered and the war closed. The regiment was mustered out at Stevens Station, was disbanded and paid off at Indianapolis, August 5, 1865. Mr. Roberts' captain during his first service was Abraham Claypool, and Col. Rice commanded the regiment. The officers of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Indiana under whom he served were Colonels Taylor and Boswell.

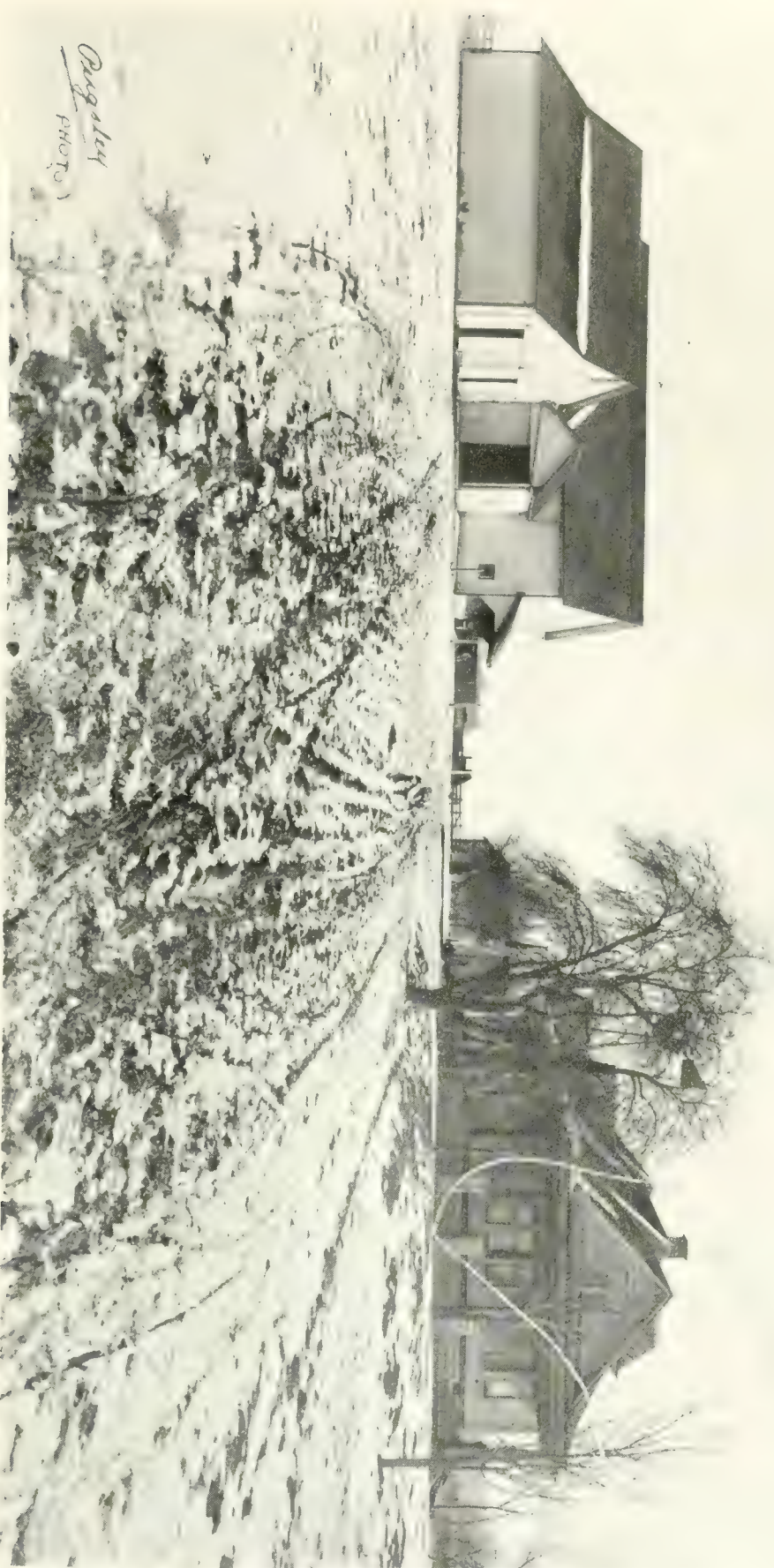
Mr. Roberts was one of the founders of the Salem Baptist church in Fountain county. He took an active part in the building up of this church in 1872. While he himself is not a church member, and does not even attend church, yet he believes in the institution and has always contributed his support liberally to the maintenance of church and charity. Although he now lives one hundred miles away from Fountain county, he has made the statement that he would gladly give fifty dollars to any committee or person who would reorganize the Salem Baptist church of Fountain county, known as Roberts Chapel. His mother was a member of the Roberts Chapel and it was built upon her farm, she having given the land for that purpose, and was one of its most devout members and most regular attendants during her lifetime.

In 1895 Mr. Roberts married Miss Eva Thomas, a daughter of Jacob S. and Elizabeth Stanley Thomas. Her grandfather was Archibald Thomas, and her mother was the daughter of Robert Stanley. Her father's people came from Wales, while the maternal ancestry was English. The Thomases came from Virginia to Ohio, where the parents were married and then moved to Butler township in Miami county, settling on the farm which is now owned by Mr. Roberts. This farm adjoins the Frances Slocum residence, and the house that stood on the place at the time Mr. Thomas arrived was a log cabin built in the midst of the woods and still stands there. The land was originally canal land, having been a part of the tract turned over from the government land to the builders of the canal, and afterwards sold by the canal people to actual settlers. Mrs. Roberts' mother made the first dress worn by Mrs. Bondy, the Indian woman who is buried in the Indian cemetery adjoining the Roberts farm. It was in her honor that the people of Miami county a few years ago erected a monument, and that is now one of the historic land marks of this county. Mrs. Roberts' father drove overland from Urbana, Ohio, to Miami county, being several days enroute. His location was at the village of Peoria in Miami county, and he was engaged in the mill business there until his establishment was burned down. He then returned to the farm and remained on it until 1896, in which year Mr. Roberts bought the old estate.

The father of Mrs. Roberts died September 4, 1899, at the age of eighty-eight years, and her mother died in 1873 at the age of fifty-seven.

Mrs. Roberts received her education in the Wabash Seminary and the Peru High School. The home of the Thomas family continued in the original log house until 1880, in which year Mrs. Roberts' father built an eight-room house, which was standing when Mr. Roberts took possession. Since that time the house was burned to the ground, and for a time Mr. and Mrs. Roberts had their residence in Peru. Since that they erected the present comfortable dwelling, and have maintained their residence in the country. Mr. Roberts had two children by his first marriage: Walter A., married Nellie Mounts and they had one child Josephine. Nellie Roberts died, and her husband then married Ora Harrison. Edith M., the second child, married Charles Wallace, and their children are Fred and Florence. The pretty home of Mr. Roberts is known as "Rolling Acre Farm."

**JAMES A. LONG.** A resident of Butler township for nearly forty years. Mr. Long came to this county when a boy, and by many years of



*Bagley*  
(photo)

“WEST VIEW FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF HARLEN E. PLOTNER





industry and good management has acquired property and has identified himself with the enterprise of his community in such manner that he is regarded as one of the most substantial and influential citizens of Butler township. He is proprietor of a store at Peoria, and owns a great deal of high priced farming land in that vicinity.

James A. Long was born in Wabash county, in Waltz township, January 1, 1860. He is a son of Jephtha Long, and a grandson of John Long. The maiden name of his mother was Lavinda Lutz, a daughter of Joseph and Anna Lutz. The family moved from Wabash county, to Miami county, in November, 1874, and located in Butler township. The father first settled in Miami county in 1843 and the mother in 1846 and here they were married. They were here while the Indians were still lingering in this part of the state. In 1849 the father went out to California, where he remained until 1851, and was more successful than most of the California forty-niners, since it was there he got his substantial start, and with the accumulations of those two years, he returned to Indiana, and was afterwards a man of substance in his community. On returning to Indiana he bought a farm in Wabash county, and lived there until 1874, when he moved to Miami county. He then located at a home near Peoria, where he lived until his death on January 12, 1900. The mother is still living at the age of eighty years, and bears her age with ease.

James A. Long remained at home with his parents up to 1883, and then bought a store in Peoria. He has conducted this store ever since for a period of thirty years. His son Raymond, who teaches school during the winter season, has charge of the store during the summer. Mr. Long has bought several farms in Miami county, and resides on one near the village of Peoria, called Long View. He also owns the farm near the Mississinewa River on the old Bondy Indian Reservation. He bought this place of one hundred and fifty acres from the Bondy Indians, after it had been owned by eight different Indian descendants. On that place the old Indian known as White Rose is buried. From the springs known as Monument Springs, the farm is known as the Monument Spring Farm. The Long View estate comprises two hundred acres. Mr. Long is a man of progressive ideas, and has improved all his farm property to the very best advantage.

Mr. Long is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge at Peru, and with Miami Lodge No. 52 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His business ability and personal integrity has commended him to his fellow citizens, and they chose him as township trustee, an office which he held from 1905 to 1909. He is a Republican in politics and for twenty-one years served as postmaster at Reserve, his wife having also held the office for four years.

On November 7, 1886, Mr. Long married Eva J. Poor, a daughter of Archibald and Isabelle Poor. They are the parents of eight children named as follows: Raymond G., who married Armedia Laudenschlager; Hazel Pearl; James Thompson; Naomi Eva; Ruth Beatrice; Helene Guinevere; Robert Louis Stephenson; and John Donald. The children were all provided with a good home and liberal educational advantages, and attended the schools of Peoria. Raymond is a graduate of the Peru high school, and Hazel graduated from the Marion Normal College.

**HARLEN E. PLOTNER.** A native son of Miami county now carrying on operations in Harrison township, Harlen E. Plotner is recognized as one of the men to whom is due the agricultural supremacy of this part of the State. He is the owner of a well improved farm of 130 acres, and his success in his personal affairs, as well as the high esteem in which he is



held by his fellow townsmen, has caused him to be elected to membership on the township advisory board, on which he is now capably serving. As an agriculturist, as a citizen and as an active worker in affairs of the church, he has justly earned the right to be named as one of his section's representative men. Mr. Plotner was born on a farm in Butler township, Miami county, Indiana, July 22, 1867, and is a son of George W. and Sarah (Smith) Plotner.

George W. Plotner was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, a son of Elijah Plotner, and was a young man when he first came to Miami county, settling in Jefferson township. He was residing in that township at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, when with other patriotic young men of his locality he enlisted August 16, 1861, to serve three years in the Union army, becoming a corporal in Capt. Horace S. Foote's Company A, Eighth Regiment, Indiana Cavalry. With this organization he saw much hard fighting, serving therewith from 1861 to 1865, and at the close of a faithful and valiant military service was discharged September 24, 1864, and returned to the home of his parents, who had removed to Butler township, Miami county. On October 4, 1866, he was married to Miss Sarah Smith, who was born in Fairfield, Ohio, a daughter of George C. Smith. In October, 1867, Mr. Plotner purchased a farm of his own in Clay township to which he moved. In September, 1871, he traded this land for another property in the same township, but in 1874 or 1875 went back to Butler township, there purchasing a part of the old Plotner homestead. Mr. Plotner came to Harrison township in 1895, and this was his home at the time of his death, October 16, 1901.

Harlen E. Plotner received a common school education, and was reared to the life of an agriculturist, remaining under the parental roof until the time of his marriage. He then embarked upon a career of his own, locating on a farm of some size in Washington township, but was not satisfied with conditions as he found them, and made several moves before coming to his present property, which had been originally entered by James D. Dryer. Here he now has 180 acres, having recently added 50 acres to his original 130 acres, all in a high state of cultivation, which he devotes to general farming, although he has also met with uniform success in stock raising operations. He has been progressive in his methods, honorable in his business dealings and earnest in his support of whatever his judgment has told him would be of benefit to his community, and as a result his standing is that of a valued and highly esteemed citizen. His buildings have all been erected by him, and are commodious in size, modern in architecture and substantial in character, greatly enhancing the value of the property. Modern machinery is used exclusively, and the entire property shows the beneficial effects of up-to-date, Twentieth-century management.

In 1893 Mr. Plotner was united in marriage with Miss Clara Beam, daughter of Alexander and Martha (Grubb) Beam. One child has come to this union: Carl E., born December 16, 1893, who has received good educational advantages, and is now residing with his parents, assisting his father in the management of the farm. Mr. Plotner has been somewhat interested in Masonry, being a popular member of Harrison Lodge, No. 660. Although not a politician in the generally accepted use of the term, he has not been indifferent to the duties of citizenship, and is at present a valued member of the Harrison township advisory board. For the past fifteen years he has been steward of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Santa Fe, Indiana, for six or seven years has been parsonage trustee, and in all church movements he has taken an active part. Both he and his wife are widely known in Harrison township, where their numerous friends testify to their popularity in social circles. The beautiful farm of Mr. and Mrs. Plotner is known as "West View Farm."

**RICHARD SAMUEL IDDINGS.** The business of farming in Butler township has had no more energetic factors from pioneer times to the present than the Iddings family. Mr. Iddings is a progressive young farmer, who now has charge of his father's estate, in Butler township. The old farm represents a great deal of hard labor, performed by the earlier generations, and the present members of the family have much to be grateful for the self denial and toil undergone by their fathers, mothers and grandparents in laying the foundation for the present condition.

R. S. Iddings was born on the farm where he now lives, July 26, 1881. His father was John Byron Iddings, and his grandfather was John Iddings. The mother, who is still living, was Mary Huber, a daughter of Jacob Huber. Mr. Iddings has two sisters and one brother: Edward J., who married Maude A. Rowell; Mary, wife of William McDonald; and Nora Iddings, unmarried.

John Byron Iddings, the father, was born in 1847 in Peru, Indiana. He grew up and received his early education in that city. The grandfather Iddings was a gunsmith by trade and followed that vocation at Peru, after his settlement there in the early days. He later moved out to the land in Butler township comprised in the present Iddings homestead. All this land was covered with timber, and there was a heavy growth of walnut, all of which was cleared away before the woodman's ax, and if those black walnut trees were still standing, their value would compensate for all the improvements that have ever been made upon the cleared ground. The first buildings were all frame cabins and grandfather Iddings did the first work of establishing a home in this wilderness. His first purchase of land was about seventy acres, and his son, John Byron Iddings, added to the estate until at present the homestead comprises three hundred and fifty-five acres. All the buildings now on the farm were erected by the father, who gave his active career to farming, and was one of the most successful in Miami county. He was reared in the Catholic faith, but was never an active member of the church. The Iddings family is of German and Welsh descent. The father at one time served as trustee of Butler township, and was public-spirited in all his activities and relations. His death occurred May 5, 1912. The mother is still living, and she was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, where she lived until her marriage on June 9, 1879. Her father died March 19, 1870. After her marriage she came to Miami county, and has since lived on the home farm. Her parents, of German descent, were early settlers of Fairfield county, Ohio, where they died. John Byron Iddings and his wife began domestic life in a small frame house, which has been moved to its present location from the orchard, and there their first children were born and reared. In the early days of the Iddings residence in this county, there were many Indians, and the family traditions include many incidents which form familiar features of pioneer life in this section.

Mr. R. S. Iddings received his education in Butler township, and was also a student at Peru and in the Purdue University after completing his high school studies at Peru. He is a capable and well educated man, and understands the business of farming in all its details. For several years he has conducted the home farm, and is now practical manager of the estate. He was married in 1907 to Caroline Barthold, a daughter of George and Mary Barthold. They have one son, John Samuel Iddings, born January 19, 1912.

**DR. JULIUS T. SPECK.** Among the strong men of the past generation who by exceptional energy and business talents created wealth out



of the natural resources and left the county richer and better for their lives, the late Dr. Julius T. Speck was a conspicuous example.

Dr. Speck, who died at his home, in Denver, Miami county August 31, 1906, was one of the foremost men of the county during his lifetime. His father was Jacob Speck, born in Pennsylvania, August 26, 1782, being of German ancestry. In Germany the family name was originally spelled Spacht. Jacob Speck married Sarah Van Doren, who was born in Virginia, June 12, 1799, and was descended from Holland ancestors. The family moved from Pennsylvania to Preble county, Ohio, when that part of the state was yet in its primitive conditions and when Indians were more to be dreaded than the hardships and privations of pioneer life.

In the new and little developed region of Preble county, Ohio, Dr. Julius T. Speck was born August 17, 1825. His early years were spent in that vicinity, and he came to Miami county at a time when the county had only recently been created from Cass county. In 1852, at the age of twenty-seven, he married Miss Adelia A. Griswold, who had come as a child of nine years with her parents to Mexico in Miami county, in 1842. Dr. and Mrs. Speck had but one daughter, Dora E., who is now the wife of Willard B. Place, of Denver, a sketch of whom follows. The late Dr. Speck was a Republican in politics and he and his family affiliated with the Methodist Church.

Dr. Speck had only a little more than the average education, but was an extensive reader, had a retentive memory which enabled him to sieze upon and make a permanent and usable possession of the knowledge which passed through his mind. He kept well abreast of current topics, and during his earlier years taught school for some time. He finally qualified himself for the profession of medicine and practiced at Cincinnati for a short time. However, the greater part of his life was devoted to general farming and stock-raising, and to this industry he brought special qualifications, and was successful beyond the ability and achievements of almost any other citizen in the county.

At the time of his death he was the owner of about eight hundred acres of land, of which about six hundred were under cultivation. He was practically a self-made man, and such success as he achieved was almost wholly through his own exertions.

**WILLARD B. PLACE.** As manager of the Speck estate, Mr. Place has continued and increased the generous accumulation resulting from the Doctor's career. For many years Mr. Place was in business at Logansport and elsewhere, until he came to Denver to take up his present work.

Willard B. Place was born at Fairfield, Iowa, February 21, 1858. His father was Willard Place, a native of Preble county, Ohio, where he was reared and where he married Eliza J. Bloss. Subsequently he moved out to Jefferson county, Iowa, during the early period in that state, and was identified in merchandising at Fairfield with his brother-in-law, Daniel Young. From Fairfield he came to Cass county, Indiana, where he was a farmer near Hoover. The father subsequently retired to Logansport, where he spent his last years. The mother still survives and now makes her home in Logansport. In the family were three children, all of whom are now living.

Willard B. Place, the only son of the family, spent most of his youth in Cass county, and had his early education in the district schools, and in the graded schools at Logansport, and finished his formal education at Smithson's College. For eighteen years he was in the heavy machinery business at Logansport, and then for four years was in the oil region as

an operator. Failing health of his father-in-law, Dr. Speck, then obliged him to return to Miami county, where he assumed the management of the large real estate and live-stock interests of the doctor. Since then he has had his home in Denver, and has devoted all his attention to the management of the large property formerly owned by Dr. Speck.

While a student at Smithson's college, Mr. Place met Dora E. Speck, who was also a student in the institution. This acquaintance culminated in their marriage on December 29, 1886. The one son born to their union is Rollin S. Place, born May 6, 1888. He is now assistant to his father in farming and stock-raising. In politics Mr. Place is a Democrat.

**JESSE BOND.** The late Jesse Bond; long a resident of these parts, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, on April 24, 1822, and was a son of Jesse Bond and his wife, Phoebe (Commons) Bond, natives of North Carolina and Virginia, respectively.

Concerning the parentage of the late Mr. Bond, it may be said briefly that the father was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, in 1776, where he was reared to manhood, and where he married his wife. Both were of Quaker birth and parentage, and their migration to Wayne county, Indiana, dates back to the early days of its development and settlement, so that they were identified with the most strenuous pioneer life peculiar to the times. Mr. Bond in those days entered from the government the land on which the Friends' College at Richmond later came to be situated, and some years after that he moved to Washington, in Wayne county, where he established a church of the Friends or Quaker faith. He was also directly responsible for the establishment of the church at Richmond. Mr. Bond served his church as a minister for some years, his death occurring at Washington in 1862.

Mr. Bond was twice married. His first wife was called to her reward in 1846, and he later chose the widow of Rev. Isaac Willets for his second wife. She survived her husband for many years. By his first marriage he became the father of twelve children, who grew to maturity and reared families of their own. He lived to see all his children settled well in life, and to each one of them he presented a farm. Jesse Bond, one of his sons, and the subject of this review, died on October 16, 1910, full of years and esteemed and loved by all who knew him.

Jesse Bond was born on April 4, 1822, and was reared on the home farm in Wayne county. He received only a common school education and was early trained to hard work, as was the custom with the boys of that period. In 1841 his father presented him with a piece of land on Section 11, Jefferson township, and here Mr. Bond came to make his home. He built a log cabin on the place, building the same from timber that stood where the cabin later reared its frame, and when the little home was complete, he married Elizabeth Jane Cox, the daughter of Elijah Cox, who was another of the first settlers of the county. Jesse Bond and his wife lived in their cabin home in the woods for many years, gradually clearing away the forest, which was a dense growth of gigantic walnuts, and disposing of it by burning. In these years of pioneer development Mrs. Bond was the able assistant and second of her husband, and to her as much as to him is the honor and credit due for the good work that was accomplished by them in those early years of stress and strife. With the progress of time they prospered, adding considerably to their holdings, and when their children were reared and ready to leave home to set up independent establishments, Mr. Bond was able to do as his father before him had done, and gave to each of them a comfortable bit of farm land for a nest egg. Five children were born to them, of which number three yet live. Mrs. Bond died in 1855, and for his sec-



ond wife Mr. Bond chose Harriet Haugh, and to them five children were born, one of the number being alive today. She has been an able factor in the building up of their happy home and in the rearing of her daughter to the life of a noble woman. Mrs. Bond was a woman of noble aspirations and a loving and motherly nature. She assumed charge of the rearing of four children when Mr. Bond died and she ably and lovingly took charge of this duty, and so well did she fill her part that the children looked up to her as their own mother. She was devoted to her home life and the poor and needy never need go away empty-handed from her door.

From the time of his first coming to Miami county Mr. Bond made this county his home, Jefferson township being the exact location of his settlement for the most part. He was a man of average size and build, but was especially rugged and was a man of the greatest industry. Reared in the religious faith of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, he was noted for the native honesty and integrity that ruled his life, and he possessed the admirable qualities of neighborliness and friendliness. His second wife died in later years and he married Isabel Titus, who still survives him.

Charles Bond is the fifth of the children of Jesse Bond and his first wife. He has lived all his life in Jefferson township, and has followed the farming industry from his earliest activity. His birth occurred on November 29, 1851, and on February 6, 1876, he married Harriet Brower, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Harmon) Brower, early settlers of this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Bond one daughter has been born,—Effie E., who is the wife of John Keyes, and the mother of a son, Ernest J. Keyes. Mrs. Keyes was educated in the common schools and the Mexico high school and their little son, Ernest J., is now in the sixth grade of the public school.

Mrs. Bond is a native of Miami county, born in a little log cabin August 1, 1859, the last in a family of thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters, born to Joseph and Elizabeth (Harmon) Brower; only four children are living. The eldest is Maria E., widow of William P. Ireland and a resident of Toledo, Ohio and she has two sons and two daughters living. Mary is the wife of B. F. Campbell of Logansport, a retired farmer. Elijah is a resident of Palazzi, North Dakota, an agriculturist and a widower. Mrs. Bond is the fourth child.

Joseph Brower was a native of Montgomery county, Ohio. Born in 1814 and he died in 1886. He was an agriculturist. He was a resident of Ohio till his young manhood, when he came with his parents across the country in wagons in 1834, and to Miami county, Jefferson township. They entered land from the government and the first home was a log house with a fireplace. Charles Bond, well remembers the same kind of a home, with a fireplace. When they came to Miami the Indians, deer and wolves were plentiful. Mr. Bond was always an agriculturist and had accumulated two hundred acres of land and aided his church. He and wife were active members of the Brethren church. He was one of the first founders of this church in their locality, and he burned the brick for the church building. Their home was the haven for the preachers. He was first a Whig and then a Republican, casting his vote for General John C. Fremont, the first Republican nominee. Mrs. Brower was a native of Pennsylvania, born near Philadelphia in 1816, and she died in 1892. She was a child of eleven years of age when she went with her parents to Ohio (Preble county), and was reared there and then came to Miami county in 1836 and here was married. Mrs. Brower was a lady of strong convictions and a woman of tender, loving sympathy. She taught her children the







*Aug 1894*  
*Photo*

“MIDDLE GROVE FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. TIMOTHY M. GINNEY

lessons of sobriety, honesty and right living before God and man. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brower are interred in the cemetery of the Church of the Brethren and a beautiful stone stands sacred to their memory. Mrs. Bond has been reared in her home county and educated in the common schools.

Mr. Bond is the owner of one hundred and eighty-five acres of land near the village of Mexico, and he is one of the prosperous and successful farming men of the township wherein he has long resided. Politically, he is a Republican, and in his religious faith he has in later years departed from the faith of his fathers, the Friends Society, and has become a member of the Church of the Brethren, of which his wife is also a member. The family is one that enjoys the sincerest regard and hearty friendship of the best people of the town, where they are well known for the many excellent qualities that dominate their lives. The beautiful homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Bond is known as "The Pine Grange," and it is the abode of hospitality.

**TIMOTHY M. GINNEY.** The establishment in a community of a family possessed of the sturdy virtues of sobriety, industry and integrity is one of the most important events of local history and has more important results upon the economic well being and social activities of a township or county than many more conspicuous happenings which are usually the first to receive the chronicles of press and historical accounts. Miami county has been fortunate in the possession of its family stock, but probably in none can it take more substantial pride than in the Ginney family, which has been known and honored here for sixty years.

Timothy M. Ginney, known generally throughout Miami county as Tim Ginney, is of Irish parentage, his father having been Timothy Ginney and his mother Catherine Dowd, both natives of County Kerry. Timothy Ginney, the elder, grew to manhood in his native country where he received an exceedingly limited education. He emigrated to America in 1850, on board a sailing vessel, and after arriving in this country worked for a short time at railroading. Soon after landing on these shores he went to Toledo, Ohio, where he met and married Catherine Dowd, who had come with her widowed mother and with four brothers and sisters to America about 1848. After Timothy Ginney's marriage he lived at Toledo until about 1853, and then with his family came down the old Wabash and Erie Canal to Miami county. His first home was in Peru, where he was employed at the arduous task of shoveling gravel. He next moved out to land which he rented from James Miller, one of the old pioneers of the county. Mr. Ginney now employed his days at work in a lime kiln, while Mrs. Ginney and the children who were old enough, applied themselves to the operation of the land they had rented, raising grain and food to supply the family larder. In this way the family got along, not only providing for their wants, but getting ahead a little for about five years. During the succeeding five years, they lived on the Abner Kisman farm in Butler township. By this time, through the united efforts of Mr. Ginney and family they had saved enough to pay an installment on a farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres in Washington township. Continued hard work and economy was the solvent before which all this indebtedness was in due time liquidated. Eventually Mr. Ginney and his wife moved into Peru, retired from active work and there spent the remainder of their days in comfort and peace. The elder Timothy Ginney was a Democrat in politics. He came to this country, a raw Irish lad, among strangers, with practically no education, and by sheer pluck, indomitable energy and force of character made life a success where most men of the pres-



ent day would have given up before beginning. His death occurred on Christmas day, 1905, and his widow passed away on July 19, 1911. They were devout Catholics in their religion, affiliating with St. Charles church of Peru, and reared their children in the same faith. They were the parents of eight children, seven sons and one daughter, three of the sons being now deceased.

Tim Ginney, the oldest of the children, was born at Toledo, Ohio, on March 14, 1853, and his boyhood days were spent in helping his parents provide a home and bread for the family. He gained his education in the public schools, and on February 11, 1879, married Miss Bridget Roach, daughter of John and Julia (Daily) Roach. After this event he rented a small farm in Washington township, where he lived for a year. He was next enterprising enough to buy eighty acres of his present farm in Peru township, and here since March 1, 1880, has been his permanent home. During the first ten years he and his wife lived in a log cabin with clapboard roof. By hard work he has added to his realty possessions, until now he owns two hundred and twenty acres, and ownership with Tim Ginney means improvements to the very highest possibility, so that his farm is now considered one of the finest in all Miami county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ginney eight childrent have been born, here mentioned as follows: Mary A., who is deceased; Julia C.; Sarah M.; John E., deceased; Leo J.; John C.; Edwin, who is deceased; and Chlorys G. Ginney.

Mr. Ginney and his family worship in the Catholic church, and in politics he is a Democrat. When he was only twenty-two years of age, he was elected assessor of Washington township, in Miami county, and in 1908 he was elected to membership on the board of county commissioners of Miami county, giving a full term of three years to the best interests of local affairs. The handsome and well kept estate of the Ginney family is known as the Middle Grove Farm.

**HENRY ROSE.** Coming to the United States as a poor boy, without knowing a word of English, having only an indifferent education, and handicapped by lack of financial support, accepting whatever work he could find in order to get a start and gradually pursuing his way upward and making a place for himself among the successful men of his community—such has been the career of Henry Rose, one of the prosperous, substantial farmers of Harrison township, of Miami county, whose home in this county has continued for more than sixty years, and in that time he has witnessed many remarkable changes from the pioneer conditions to the modern electric age.

Of thrifty and rugged German stock, Henry Rose was born in Germany, January 19, 1846, a son of Henry and Mary (Graf) Rose. His grandfather was Valentine Rose. In 1851, the Rose family, seeking to better their condition by coming to America, left their native land, and after a long and tedious ocean journey landed in New York City. Their home was kept in New York State for a little more than three years. Coming west to Indiana, they found a place in the woods of Harrison township in Miami county, and there Henry Rose, Sr., and his good wife Mary spent the rest of their years and were honored and respected members of their community. The father died in September, 1885, and the mother in 1891. The first years of their residence in this township, were spent by Henry Rose in cultivating rented land. Then he bought forty acres of timber, cleared a small tract, built a cabin, and applied himself with the courage and industry characteristic of the better class of Germans, and eventually had created for himself a moderate meas-

ure of prosperity. Other larger and better buildings were erected from time to time, but the old house still stands, a landmark of pioneer days. The younger Henry Rose, who was less than ten years of age when the family moved to Miami county, inherited a share of the little farm his father's industry had developed, where he has since continued to reside. Later by purchase he acquired his brother's share in the property, and from time to time has added to his farm, but the purchase of adjoining land, until his holdings now comprise two hundred and five acres. All this land has been cleared and put in cultivation, good fences separate the fields, and the substantial dwelling houses and barns and other equipment represent his long continued labors.

On April 12, 1868, Mr. Rose married Mary Richer, a daughter of Peter Richer. During a happy married companionship of fifty-five years, a large family came to bless their home and the living members are now well established on their own responsibility, and are a credit to the diligence and self-sacrificing labors undergone by their parents, in providing a home and training for them. Seven children were born and all are living except one. This family record is as follows: Henry, born March 25, 1869, died August 24, 1897, leaving a widow Dena (Hershberger) Rose and two children, John H. and Ella; Mary, born February 12, 1872, the wife of Albert Feller, and the mother of three children, Millard, Earl and Paul; Charles, born December 20, 1873, who is unmarried and lives at home; Sarah Elizabeth, born February 1, 1877, the wife of Henry Wilkinson, and has one child, Arthur; William, born October 1, 1879, married Gurtha Osborn; John, born December 15, 1882, married Laura Graf, and has one child, John M.; Anna B., born March 26, 1888, and living at home with her parents. Mr. Rose in political affiliations is a Democrat, and besides prosperously managing his individual enterprise as a farmer, has given service in behalf of the community and for fifteen years held the office of justice of the peace. His religious creed is that of the Evangelical church. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Rose is known as "The Rose Dale Agricultural Farm."

**ELI J. SPRINGER.** Since the pioneer settlement of Miami county, one of the families which have largely influenced its business, agricultural and civic development is that represented by Mr. Eli Springer of Harrison township. Three generations of the name, whose members have alike been distinguished for business talents, enterprise and large public spirit have spent a portion of their lifetime in this county and many of the improvements now witnessed on very hand have been prompted or carried out by the people of this family stock.

Eli J. Springer was born in Harrison township of this county on July 19, 1880, and is a son of John and a grandson of Jacob Springer. John Springer, who was born in Holmes county, Ohio, March 20, 1843, was brought by his parents to Indiana in 1848. The Indians had finally been removed from this locality only two years previously and a large area of the county was a wilderness. In Harrison township, practically all the land was covered by dense woods, and it was in the midst of the timber the Springer family located. The land first occupied by them adjoined the farm of Eli J. Springer. Mr. Jacob Springer established his family in a cabin home, and devoted his energies to the work of clearing the land and developing a farm. The log house built by John Springer some years later is still standing on the farm. John Springer was married in Harrison township to Miss Mary Foust, who became the mother of ten children, namely: Frances, who married



Charles Smith; Charles, who died in infancy; Harvey, who married Anna Ferguson; Emma, who died in infancy; Reuben, who married Eva Harris; Minnie, who married John Rinker; Eli; Mary Catherine, deceased; John H., who married Emma Graf; and Sarah May, who is the wife of Charles Ramer. The mother of this family passed away September 18, 1889, and the father died January 3, 1913. The latter was a public-spirited citizen, much interested in local affairs, and served in such offices as member of the township advisory board and road supervisor. His memory was honored by local publications and the following obituary of this honored resident is taken from one of the papers:

John Springer was born in Holmes county, Ohio, March 20, 1843; died January 3, 1913, at the age of 69 years, 9 months and 14 days, at his home in Miami county near North Grove.

He came to Indiana from Ohio in 1848 when only five years of age. Since then he has lived continually in this community.

In 1866 he was united in marriage to Mary Ann Foust. This union was blessed with eleven children, six sons and five daughters, five of whom precede him in death.

On September 18, 1889, death claimed his earthly companion, and with his family he was left to battle with the things of earth.

In 1901 he was united in marriage to Emily Edwards, who departed this life November 27, 1905, again leaving him alone.

He was converted to God under the labors of Rev. Ivan when he was about thirty years of age. He became a charter member of the St. Paul church of the Evangelical Association and remained faithful unto the end.

He leaves to mourn his loss, four sons—Harvey, Reuben, Eli and John; two daughters—Minnie Rinker and Sarah Ramer; one brother, Jacob Springer; thirteen grandchildren and scores of friends.

He was a man of a deep religious experience and served his church from the beginning until his end came as one of her esteemed trustees. As class leader and teacher he was always in demand and never released until his mortal frame grew frail.

Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, John H. Heldt, in the St. Paul Chapel January 6th at 10 A. M.

Eli J. Springer was reared on his father's farm, had the advantages of the district school while growing up, and had chosen to take his place among the substantial agriculturists, and enjoy the facilities and pleasures of country life. His home has always been on the old homestead, and he is now well established in business as an independent and progressive farmer. All the buildings on the farm were placed there by his father, but the son has introduced many other improvements, and is carrying forward the farm on a modern scale.

Eli J. Springer married Miss Lillie Van Hart, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Hofferbert) Van Hart. To their marriage have been born two children: Edgar LeRoy, born August 10, 1908; and Carl Wendel, born December 29, 1910. Mrs. Springer's parents were residents of Darke county, Ohio, where they died, the father on October 4, 1898, at the age of forty years, and the mother on May 7, 1899, at the age of forty-eight. In their family were thirteen children, of whom the following reached adult years: Clara, wife of Walter Bailey; Jesse married Artha Longnecker; Samuel, who married Fairy Bond; Lillie, wife of Eli J. Springer; Elmer, who married Bessie Rapp; Ethel, wife of Manual Baker; Opal, wife of Frank Bloomerstock; Ruth, wife of Amzi Baker; and LeRoy, unmarried.

Mr. Springer and his family attend the services of the Evangelical Association.

**IRA GRAHAM.** A member of a family that has been identified with the growth and development of Miami county for upwards of seventy years, Ira Graham is entitled to more than passing mention in a work of this nature. He has followed agricultural pursuits throughout a long and useful career, and as a lifelong resident of Harrison township has seen its development from a practical wilderness to one of the most prosperous and productive sections of the State. He has borne his full share in the great changes which have been brought about, and while advancing his private interests has contributed in no small degree to the general welfare of the community. Mr. Graham was born in Harrison township, Miami county, Indiana, August 16, 1855, and is a son of James and Elizabeth (Dickson) Graham.

James Graham was born in Athens county, Ohio, a son of Henry Graham, was married in his native State, and came to Miami county, Indiana, in 1844. Here he entered 160 acres of land from the government, a totally uncultivated tract located in Harrison township, about one-quarter of a mile south of the present home of Ira Graham. Here he cleared a small space from the timber, and, as was the custom of the pioneers, erected a small log cabin. This was the family home while the children were growing up, and as the sons became old enough they assisted their father in clearing the balance of the property, which became one of the valuable farms of the township. Mr. Graham continued to reside on this tract until his death, in 1893, his wife passing away about the same time. She was a daughter of Joseph Dickson.

Ira Graham received his education in what was known as the Wilson schoolhouse in Harrison township, the school terms then being about three months long, held during the winters. The long summer months of his boyhood were passed in the work of the home farm, and he continued to divide his time between farming and attending school until he was twenty years of age. At that time he began renting land, and being industrious and ambitious accumulated enough to make a payment on his present property, a part of the old homestead. He continued to add to his land, making numerous improvements and erecting new buildings, and his 102 acres are all now under a state of cultivation and yielding him excellent returns for his years of labor. He uses new methods and the most highly improved machinery, and his well-fed livestock testifies to his skill and good judgment as a stock raiser. His entire business career has been passed on this property, and his reputation in the neighborhood is that of a sterling citizen, an excellent farmer and a loyal friend. He has served efficiently as a member of the board of supervisors of his township, was for years a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and, with his family, attends the Christian Church.

On November 4, 1880, Mr. Graham was married to Miss Leah King, daughter of John and Catherine (Timmons) King, and five children have been born to this union, namely: Elbert E., born March 25, 1883, married Stella Wolf, and has four children,—Russell, Leslie, Marguerite and St. Elmo; Maud E., born September 14, 1884, who married Charles Millett, has two daughters,—Elba and Ruth; Clyde E., born February 7, 1887, one of twins, married Lydia Goldie Gehrart, daughter of John Gehrart, and has one son and one daughter,—Carl Edgar, born February 15, 1912 and Freda Prescilla, July 7, 1913; Clarence, twin of Clyde E., born February 7, 1887, who married Lestie



Gehrart, and has three children,—Floyd, who died October 12, 1913. Alice Pauline and infant; and Florence B., born January 19, 1892, married Franklin Ellers, and has one child,—Earl Lee.

Mrs. Graham was born in Miami county, Indiana, November 18, 1859, and is the twelfth child in a family of seventeen children—one of the largest families in Miami county—seven sons and ten daughters born to John and Catherine (Timmons) King. There are two sons and three daughters living and all are residents of Miami county, Indiana. John King was a native of Delaware and Mrs. King is a native of Maryland. They were married in Maryland. Mr. King was an agriculturist all his life, and was educated in the common schools. Politically he was a Republican and cast a vote for Gen. John C. Fremont, the first nominee of the Republican party. He and his wife were Methodists in their religious belief. They died in Butler township and there were interred.

When Mr. and Mrs. Graham began their married life all the cash capital they had was about one hundred dollars, and they lived as renters for about ten years. Mr. Graham inherited most of the land that he now occupies, but all the excellent and modern buildings, besides their pretty residence they have erected. Mrs. Graham has been an able factor in the building up of their beautiful home life and the rearing of their children who are married and all settled in life and occupy a prominent place in the respect of their community. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Graham is known as "The Graham Homestead."

**RICHARD MALOTT.** A lifelong resident of Harrison township, Richard Malott has for many years been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Miami county, and has contributed materially to the advancement and progress of the county through these channels. He is a well-informed man, possessed of broad general information, and in his nature there is nothing narrow or contracted. He has a spirit that, while devoted to his community, is liberal enough to recognize and appreciate advancement and progress in any other part of the world and to profit by it. At the present time he is carrying on extensive operations on a well-cultivated farm of 158 acres, and everywhere he is recognized as a practical farmer and experienced stockman. Mr. Malott was born in Harrison township, Miami county, Indiana, September 16, 1870, and is a son of Ira and Nancy (McFarland) Malott, and a grandson of Richard Malott and Enoch McFarland.

Ira Malott was born in Darke county, Ohio, and came to Miami county during the early 'fifties, settling in Harrison township and engaging in agricultural pursuits. He was so engaged at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Sixteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which hard-fighting organization he served until the cessation of hostilities in 1865. On the completion of his brave and valiant service, he returned to the peaceful pursuits of the farm, continuing to till the soil until his retirement several years ago. He married Miss Nancy McFarland, who was born in Miami county, and she died in 1890.

Richard Malott received his education in the district schools of his native township, and was reared to the life of an agriculturist, which he has followed all of his career. He remained under the parental roof, assisting his father until his marriage, at which time he settled on his present farm, a tract of 158 acres in Harrison township. This he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and through constant energy and intelligent and well-directed effort has made it one of the valuable tracts of this section. Although the land had been cleared







“MAPLE DELL STOCK FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JACOB S. LAVENGOD

before his arrival, he has made numerous improvements, and erected the modern, substantial buildings which are now to be found on the property. He is practical and progressive in his methods of farming, and in the management of his business affairs displays a sound judgment that has brought to him a merited success. His reputation among those who have had transactions with him is that of a thoroughly reliable business man, and he has always had the full confidence of his associates.

In 1891, Mr. Malott was married to Miss Genevieve Haskett, daughter of Valentine and Mary Jane (Minor) Haskett. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Malott, namely: Bonilin, born August 21, 1897; and Richard, who was born August 21, 1910. Mrs. Malott's father died in January, 1907, and her mother passed away two years later. Mr. and Mrs. Malott are consistent members of the Friends' Church. He has never been a politician, but has not been indifferent to the duties of citizenship, and at present is serving as assessor of Harrison township, a position to which he was appointed by the county auditor. The homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Malott is known as "Cottage Lawn," and is a home of comfort and happiness.

JACOB S. LAVENGOD. One of the leading farmers of Harrison township, the proprietor and manager of a handsome estate of two hundred and fifty-six acres, Jacob S. Lavengood is one of the few citizens of Miami county still in the middle period of life, who were born in log cabins, and his early career was spent within that era which compassed what is now known as the epoch of old times. The Lavengood family have been identified with Miami county for sixty years, and along with substantial material prosperity they have always enjoyed a reputation for kindly neighborliness and community spirit.

Jacob S. Lavengood, who has lived on his present estate in Harrison township for the last twenty years was born in a log cabin on his father's farm, January 8, 1865. His parents were Jacob and Rosana (Stairheim) Lavengood. The paternal grandfather was John Lavengood, and the maternal grandfather was Jacob Stairheim. John Lavengood was a Pennsylvanian who settled in Ohio at an early day, and there reared his family. In the early fifties Jacob Lavengood left the residence, in Holmes county, Ohio, and came into Indiana, with no capital save his strong arm and willingness to work. As an indication of his energy and good judgment in the investment of his savings, it may be stated that at the time of his death, his estate covered five hundred acres of Miami county land. In common with other frontier settlers here, his first home was a log house, and the timbers were hewn with his own ax, and his own labor was the chief factor in erecting and furnishing it. With the assistance of his sons he cleared much of his land, and the work of grubbing, and subjugating the soil was a task for many successive years, and was carried on by the sons after his death. He passed away after a long and useful career on November 12, 1880. Of his children, the record reads as follows: Sarah, who married Frank Bowland; Wilson, who married Lillie Freeman; Matilda, who married Andrew Gerhart; Rosa, the wife of Frank Ellers; Daniel C., who married May Boyd; and Jacob.

Jacob S. Lavengood grew up on the old homestead, attended the district schools, and all his business experience has been in the field of agricultural enterprise. On Jan. 12, 1890, occurred his marriage to Miss Fannie Durkes. Her parents were Frederick and Elizabeth (Spurgeon) Durkes, who were an old family in Miami county, where her father died in 1905, well known and highly respected.

Mrs. Lavengood was born in Miami county, Ind., May 29, 1870, the



second in a family of five children, two sons and three daughters, born to her parents. Three of the children are living: Mrs. Lavengood of Miami county; Charles W., of Marion, Indiana, who married Ida Barley; and Walter, an agriculturist of Francisville, Indiana, who wedded Rosa Klein. Mr. Durkes was a native of Germany, and was nine years of age when his parents emigrated to America, first locating in New York for a short time and thence to Cincinnati, Ohio, and finally settled in Harrison township, Miami county. He was an agriculturist and politically a Democrat. Both he and wife were members of the Christian Church. Mr. Durkes died November 1, 1905, and his wife died April 12, 1913. Both are interred in Park Lodge at Amboy, Indiana. Mrs. Durkes was a native of Miami county, born November 15, 1845, and when she died she was sixty-seven years of age.

Mrs. Lavengood was reared and educated in her native county, and has borne her part nobly in building up her beautiful home and rearing her family. She is a cordial, genial lady and like her husband sociable and friendly, which tends much in adding to their large circle of friends. Their model residence is modern in detail and is one of the most beautiful homes in the county. Two years after his marriage Mr. Lavengood and wife moved to their present homestead in Harrison township. This is an estate of two hundred and fifty-six acres, and during the twenty years of their occupancy, their combined industry and management have resulted in the clearing up of many acres, and in the erection of many buildings and improvements. The estate is known as "Maple Dell Stock Farm."

Jacob Lavengood and wife have six children, named as follows: John C., born February 18, 1891; Jacob F., born August 25, 1892; Walter D., born May 7, 1893; Roy J., born April 25, 1895; Clarence C., born August 13, 1899; and Eva E., born October 29, 1906. Of these children John C. has a home of his own, having married Lola Faust, and they have one daughter, Malina Bernice, born August 16, 1912. Mr. Lavengood and his family are identified with the Evangelical church.

WILLIAM L. LUCAS. Clay township's sterling citizenship and substantial industry are well represented in Mr. Lucas, whose home has been in this county since 1871, and who has lived on his present attractive rural home for about fifteen years. Mr. Lucas is prospering as a business man, has not failed to render the service required by a community from its leading citizens, and his vigorous administration as township trustee is still gratefully remembered.

William L. Lucas, who came to Miami county, in 1871 from Washington county, Indiana, was born in Pope township of the latter county, September 28, 1845, a son of John J. and Mary (Porter) Lucas. The paternal grandfather was John Lucas and his maternal grandfather Robert Porter, the former a native of New York State, went to Ohio, when a small boy. John J. Lucas was reared in Ohio, and late in the thirties came to Indiana, and took up his residence in Washington county. All his life was spent as a farmer, and in Washington county, he cleared a tract of heavily timbered land and developed a farm, and on that place, in a hewed log house, William L. Lucas first saw the light of day.

William L. Lucas had the early training and environment of the average Indiana boy during the middle period of the last century. He was a young man with considerable experience as a farmer, when he moved to Miami county in 1871, and his home was on several different farms before he moved to his present tract of forty acres. At the time

he purchased his present home, the land was covered with thick woods, and a big task confronted him in the clearing of it, and the subjugation of the wilderness to the uses of modern husbandry. Thus, all the improvements, the productive fertility, and the buildings, represent the labor of Mr. Lucas.

In 1866, William L. Lucas married Miss Emeline Waisner, daughter of Solomon and Elvira (Bowman) Waisner. To their marriage were born two children, a daughter and a son. The daughter, Mary M., born September 29, 1868, is the wife of Edward Davis and the mother of five children. The son Charles W., born April 8, 1874, died May 9, 1907. The maiden name of his wife was Miss Delilah Rarey. For fifteen or sixteen years, Charles W. Lucas had been engaged in teaching school in Deer Creek and Wawpecong communities. He was identified with both the Knights of Pythias and the Masons, and his funeral was attended by about one hundred members of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, a special car from Galveston to Peru being chartered for the purpose. Mrs. Lucas is a native of Washington county, Indiana, born September 10, 1847, the sixth child in a family of thirteen children—six sons and seven daughters, and of these seven are living at present. Both parents are dead. The father was born in North Carolina and the mother in Indiana. They were members of the Christian church. Mrs. Lucas was educated in the common schools.

William L. Lucas belonged to the same Masonic Lodge in which his son was initiated, Crescent Lodge No. 280 of Miami. Politically he is a Democrat. In November, 1901, his fellow citizens in Clay township elected him to the office of trustee, and for a period of four years he rendered efficient service in that capacity. He and his family attend worship at the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**BENJAMIN F. JENKINS.** Modern agriculture holds out many inducements to the industrious, progressive man, especially when he has been trained to this kind of work from boyhood. It comes natural to such a man to perform the duties pertaining to the tilling of the soil, and, having had experience, he is able to recognize and appreciate the advantages new methods offer. Having passed through hard experiences in his work, he is not easily deceived with relation to the true value of proposed innovations, nor is he apt to turn down good propositions. In addition, he knows the demand of his neighborhood and can take advantage of it as one who is just beginning cannot. Failure one season does not utterly discourage, for he has learned that one lean year often makes two fat ones, and that in the time of small crops is the opportunity for preparing for banner ones. For these and numerous other reasons, the lifetime farmer is the one who may be picked for the winner in the race for agricultural supremacy, and one of the men of Miami county who has already made an excellent record along these lines in Clay township is Benj. F. Jenkins, the owner of a well-cultivated tract of 100 acres.

Mr. Jenkins has been a farmer all of his life. He was born in Franklin, Virginia, April 7, 1859, and is a son of Pleasant T. and Rebecca (Neff) Jenkins. On leaving the Virginia home, the Jenkins family removed to a location southeast of Mexico, on what is known as the Stroud land, the father there leasing forty acres, on which they resided for about a year. Succeeding this they came to Clay township, Miami county, and located on land belonging to Levi Miller, and five years later went to Johnson county, Missouri, where they remained only a short time. On their return they located on a farm northwest of McGrawsville, but after a few months went to Wabash county, Indiana,



where they spent two and one-half years. At later periods, Mr. Jenkins made several other moves, but eventually settled down in Clay township for his permanent abode, and here he and his wife both passed the remainder of their lives in agricultural pursuits.

Benj. F. Jenkins received his education in the public schools of the various communities in which the family resided, and was reared to farm work and trained to habits of industry and thrift. He was married February 17, 1861, to Miss Elizabeth Lippold, daughter of Leonard Lippold, who is deceased, and whose widow survives him. Six children were born to this union, as follows: John O., born November 20, 1881, who married Matilda Deish; Charles E., born November 20, 1881; Clara Ada, born December 21, 1884, who married Walter O. Wolf; Sylva, born January 14, 1892; Melvin B., born September 3, 1895; and Carl L., born April 10, 1901. After the death of his father, Mr. Jenkins made his home on the old property for about nine years, and at the end of that time came to his present place, on which there had been built a house and several other buildings. Mr. Jenkins has improved the old buildings greatly and has erected a number of new ones, having a full complement for the shelter of his grain, stock and implements. He uses up-to-date methods in his work, raises large crops, and is considered one of the substantial men of his community, having added forty acres to the original tract of sixty acres. He has the confidence of all with whom he has had business transactions, and his reputation is that of an honorable man of business and a public-spirited citizen. Mr. Jenkins and his daughters Sylva and Clara Ada are members of the Church of the Brethren, Mrs. Jenkins is a member of the Evangelical Church, the son John O. and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Melvin Vern is a member of the Progressive Brethren.

**JOHN BOONE.** There are numerous men today who, born on farms, are still living full and fruitful lives in agricultural communities, reaping good returns from their work and taking advantage of the training they received in their youth in the simple, healthy duties of the oldest of all callings. It is generally becoming recognized that the farming element holds a position independent to other vocations; through its activities the world is fed, and many who have entered other fields of endeavor have once more returned to the soil, satisfied that they can there best work out their success. Among the men of Miami county who has found profit and contentment in the life of an agriculturist may be mentioned John Boone, of Clay township, the owner of 153 acres of well-cultivated land. Mr. Boone's residence here covers a period of nearly three-quarters of a century, during which time he has witnessed and participated in the marvelous changes that have transformed Miami county from a wild, useless, non-producing country into a center of agricultural activity and one of the most prosperous sections of the state. He was born at Peru, Miami county, Indiana, December 23, 1839, and is a son of Jacob and Christina (Rohrer) Boone.

Jacob Boone was a blacksmith by trade, and was one of the very early settlers of Peru, whence he came during the late 'thirties. He was a man of enterprise and industry and was making a comfortable home for his family, when death claimed him at the early age of thirty-two years. His widow survived him a number of years. John Boone received only ordinary educational advantages, the death of his father making it necessary that he early start to work to assist in the support of the family. He has always carried on farming, and after his marriage located on a tract of his own, on which was located a log house,

and the greater part of the property was fairly cleared of timber. Here he and his wife settled down to make a home, and after years of patient labor began to see their efforts bring fruit in the cultivation of one of the section's valuable properties. As the years have passed, and his finances have allowed, Mr. Boone has added to his buildings, his stock and his equipment, and his farm is modern in every respect and a source of great pride to its owner, who values it the more because it has been entirely developed under his personal care. He has 153 acres at the present time, all in a good state of cultivation, well-fenced, tiled and drained, and devotes the property to general farming and stock raising. He is a practical farmer, not averse to experimenting with the latest ideas, and is known as a good judge of cattle. Among his associates he bears the reputation of an honorable man of business, who has never indulged in transactions of other than a perfectly legitimate nature.

Mr. Boone's first marriage was to Miss Mary Hoffine, and they became the parents of two children: Stella, who is married; Christiana, who married Henry Edwards, who is deceased. He was married (second) to Sarah Eagle, and to this union there were born seven children. Mr. Boone's third wife was Miss Lydia Cunningham, daughter of Samuel F. and Martha (Early) Cunningham, both now deceased. Mrs. Boone is a native of Miami county, born April 4, 1850, and she was educated in the common schools. There are seven daughters and two sons living of her parents' family and four residents are of Miami county. Mr. Boone is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Miami, Indiana, being a master Mason, and for almost half a century he has been a member of the I. O. O. F. No. 52 of Peru. Politically he is a Democrat and has always supported those principles. Mr. and Mrs. Boone are faithful members of the Brethren Church at Loree, Indiana.

PETER C. STINEMAN. The fiscal and educational affairs of Harrison township have never been better administered nor entrusted to more efficient hands than to the present township trustee, Peter C. Stineman, who has served since 1908 in that office. Mr. Stineman has lived all his life in this county, was a successful teacher, and for the past twelve years has been a prosperous farmer, and represents one of the prominent old families of Miami county.

The present orthography of the name "Stineman" has been anglicized from "Steinmann," the strict German spelling.

Peter C. Stineman was born on his father's farm about one mile west of his present location, September 11, 1870, a son of Jonas and Lydia (Christner) Stineman. His grandfathers both bore the first name of Peter. Jonas Stineman came to Miami county in 1848, and settled in Harrison township. A little later he moved to a place near the township line, comprising one hundred and thirty-six acres, all covered with heavy timber. There a clearing was made, and a log cabin erected as the home for the family in that section. Subsequently he went over into Clay township, where he lived until 1880. Then came his return to Harrison township, and in 1903 there was another removal which took him into Clay township, where he has since had his home. These various moves were not so important as they appear from the mere statement, since the entire distance covered in the various removals was a matter of only a matter of a few rods, since his land lies on both sides of the township line. As the first wife of Jonas Stineman, Lydia (Christner) Stineman, died August 19, 1882, he married for his present wife Mrs. Barbara (Stahley) Metzler.



Peter C. Stineman remained a member of his father's household until he attained his twenty-first year. Then he engaged in school-teaching, taught for several successive terms, and during that time made several changes in residence in order to be near his school. His work as a school teacher was of a high class, and he is affectionately remembered by many of his old pupils. In 1901 Mr. Stineman settled on his present farm of eighty acres, and the past twelve years has devoted his energies to the cultivation and improvement. All its buildings have been placed here by him, and together with the fields and fences, and the general appearance of the farm, all point to the fact that the owner is prosperous and progressive. He is a farmer who believes in modern methods, is thoroughly practical, however, and his previous record insures his success.

While always busy with private business, Mr. Stineman has manifested the spirit of community interest which makes good citizens and which makes progressive communities. His father has also been honored with local offices, such as school director and road supervisor, and Peter Stineman in 1908 was chosen by his fellow citizens to the office of trustee. Thus for the past five years he has had charge of the school administration and other local matters, and has shown himself a very efficient and capable trustee.

On July 1, 1895, Mr. Stineman married Miss Ola Swoverland. Mrs. Stineman is a daughter of Levi and Sarah Jane (Hoover) Swoverland. To their marriage have been born three children, mentioned as follows: Wendell Paul, born October 16, 1897; Maurene, born October 6, 1899; and Eva Earl, born April 6, 1902. The children all live at home and are being supplied with the advantages of the Harrison township schools and Mr. and Mrs. Stineman spare no pains to give their little family the best possible surroundings and influences to prepare them for worthy and honorable places in life. Mr. Stineman and family attend the Evangelical Church.

DAVID A. BOWLAND. One of the most prosperous farmers of Harrison township and a citizen whose services have often contributed to the general advancement and public welfare of his community, David A. Bowland is one of the oldest native sons of Miami county, having been born in a log cabin home here sixty-five years ago. He is now and has been for many years one of the substantial men upon whom the solid prosperity and civic progress of his county depend.

David A. Bowland, who is a son of one of the sterling pioneers whose advent to Miami county dates back to a short time after the redmen took their departure from this part of the state, was born on his father's farm in Clay township, December 18, 1849. His parents were Samuel N. and Anna (Wagner) Bowland, the former a son of Alexander Bowland and the latter a daughter of Henry Wagner. Shortly before the birth of the son David A., either in 1848 or 1849, Samuel N. Bowland came from Ohio, into Indiana, and found a place in the wilderness of Clay township in Miami county. Here he spent the rest of his life.

Samuel Bowland had preceded him to this location and with this brother made a clearing in the midst of the trees, and a small log cabin home erected. The little home was finished in time to become the birth-place of David A. Bowland. The late Samuel N. Bowland was a pioneer of more than usual energy. He cleared up all the eighty acres comprising his original place, later bought another eighty acres adjoining this land also covered with timber, and with the assistance of the sons who had in the meantime grown up, he directed its clearing and cultivation until it was a substantial part of the farming area.



“WALNUT GROVE GRANGE”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. DAVID A. BOWLAND





Still later Samuel N. Bowland added to his holdings, by purchase at different times of sixty, eighty and sixty acres, until his estate aggregated three hundred and sixty acres. Before his death he made a division of his property among his children, who had lived at home and helped to accumulate it. Not one of the children had left home until about the age of twenty-five. Together they had all worked harmoniously, carrying forward the clearing and cultivating, and before his death the father had the pleasure of turning over in severalty to his children an estate which represented a handsome degree of prosperity.

On November 6, 1879, at the age of thirty years, Mr. D. A. Bowland was united in marriage with Emily C. Smith, a daughter of Calvin and Nancy (Wilson) Smith. They are the parents of one child, Jesse Forrest Bowland, born February 20, 1890. On February 9, 1909, this son married Lela Ellis, a daughter of Erastus Ellis.

Mr. Bowland during his youth had only such advantages as were supplied by the country schools during the decade of the fifties and sixties. His training was of the practical sort, such as comes from handling an ax in the virgin timber, following a plow through fields covered with stumps, and in swinging a scythe or old-fashioned cradle. With such a training he has probably appreciated as much as any other resident of Miami county, the remarkable changes in methods of agriculture and industry, which have been introduced during his lifetime. In the year he was married, Mr. and Mrs. Bowland took up their residence on his present farm in Harrison township, and they have lived there and steadily prospered for more than three decades. Fraternally his associations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Amboy, Indiana, and his political support has always been given to the Democratic candidate and principles. A man of influence, and a citizen whose integrity and public spirit have been much appreciated, he was in 1888 elected to the highest office of his township, that of trustee, and gave an efficient administration up to 1896.

Mrs. Bowland has always aided her husband in counsel and advice, and has ably filled her sphere as a faithful wife and an affectionate mother. She too is a native of the dear, old Hoosier State, and a lady who is affable, cordial and genial to all, and her beautiful and comfortable home is her haven.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowland are always ready and willing to aid the worthy poor and needy, and all who know them, honor them for their sterling characters. Their estate in Harrison township, one of the most valuable farms, is called "Walnut Grove Grange."

WALTER BALSBAUGH. Farming in all its branches has been considered a good line of business since the beginning of the world, but within the last quarter of a century it has developed in a remarkable degree, and at this time offers special field for a man of energy and ability. In this class stands Walter Balsbaugh of Union township, a man who has been the architect of his own fortunes.

Walter Balsbaugh was born in Miami county, in Jefferson township in March, 1877. His father was J. H. Balsbaugh, and his grandfather was Daniel Balsbaugh. The maiden name of his mother was Sarah Jane Fisher, a daughter of George Fisher. J. H. Balsbaugh came from Pennsylvania to Miami county with his parents at an early date, locating near Denver, where they engaged in farming on eighty acres of land. After his marriage he located on a farm near Mexico, where he has lived ever since. Walter Balsbaugh spent his early life on the home farm and was educated in the schools of Miami county, learned all the details about a farm, and continued to live at home and work



the home place until his marriage. In 1901, on March 20, he married Miss Anna Miller, daughter of A. L. and Elizabeth (Florey) Miller. After their marriage Mr. Balsbaugh rented a place in Jefferson township for three years and then came to his present farm, which he has since acquired and improved until it is one of the model places of the township. It comprises one hundred and fifteen acres of land, and at the time he took possession there were some old buildings which constituted the principal improvement. Since then he has remodeled and rebuilt and erected several entirely new structures, and has cleared twenty acres out of the timber, and has produced as profitable and as attractive a farm as can be found in this neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Balsbaugh have three children, namely: Wilma E., born December 5, 1902; Frances Naomi, born January 24, 1905; and Ralph H., born January 23, 1910. The family attend the Conservative Brethren church, and in politics Mr. Balsbaugh is a Republican.

JAY W. NEWELL, M. D. Since 1885 a Denver physician and surgeon, Dr. Newell is one of the oldest and best known medical practitioners in Miami county. To his ample practice in a largely rural community, he has brought the ability and careful skill which would have gained him perhaps more distinction, but not greater honors for substantial service in the populous urban centers.

Dr. J. W. Newell is a Pennsylvanian by birth, born in Bradford county, of the Keystone State on September 9, 1858. His father was John W. Newell, a farmer by occupation during his earlier years and a native of Pennsylvania, where he was reared and where he married Phoebe Jones. In 1865 the Newell family came west to Carroll county, Indiana, where Mr. Newell had a brother-in-law living at that time. At Rockfield, for a number of years he conducted a hotel, and died in that town May 6, 1897, at the age of eighty-nine years. His wife died in 1889, when sixty-nine years old. They were the parents of three children, all of whom are still living.

In the home in the town of Rockfield, the boyhood and youth of Jay W. Newell were spent, much of his youthful strength having been devoted to the labor on a farm. He attended the district schools, and later finished his literary training by a term in the graded schools at Delphi. He was thirteen years old when he began working regularly on the farm of his brother-in-law, and at the age of seventeen had qualified himself and began the work of teaching. During this time he obtained some books and began the private course of reading on physiology, anatomy, and other medical subjects, having by this time a definite ambition to enter the profession of medicine. Finally from the means obtained as a teacher he entered the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, in 1878. During part of the following year he attended the Louisville Medical College, and in the spring of 1880 returned to the Kentucky School of Medicine, from which he was graduated in June of that year, being awarded the third honors in general proficiency in his class. In 1879 he had been awarded a diploma in the Louisville City Hospital on diseases of women.

In 1879, a short time before he took up the active work of his profession, Dr. Newell married Miss Alice Gregg. Four children, one son and three daughters, have blessed their union and are all living, as follows: Clifford V., who finished the public school course in Cass county, Indiana, graduated from the Peru high school, and later from the Purdue University in the pharmacy department, is proprietor of a drug store in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He married Miss Mary Sears, and they have a little daughter, Katherine Alice. Vera V., the

second child, was a student in the Denver high school, took the Normal course in the Ada Normal College at Adam, Ohio, and was a teacher for some time in the Denver schools, before her marriage to Clay T. Olds; they now live at Decatur, Illinois, where her husband is in the employ of the railroad company. They have one little daughter, Hester Alice. Golden V., the third in the family, was educated in the University of Valpariso, Indiana, and married Blair B. Fricke, who is a printer by occupation, and they have their home in Columbus, Ohio. Harriett Mercedes, the youngest, is a student in the fourth year in the Columbus high school in Ohio.

After his graduation from medical college, Dr. Newell at once took up active practice in his old home at Rockfield, being an associate of Dr. John W. Powell. Then in 1885 he moved to Denver, where he has ever since been in active and continuous practice. Dr. Newell was local surgeon of the Butler Division of the Wabash Railroad, until that line became a part of the Vandalia System, and has since become a member of the Association of Surgeons of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and has been local surgeon at Denver since 1887. Dr. Newell is an honored member of the Miami County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and his membership in those different organizations dates back for a number of years. Besides his comfortable town property in Denver, he has a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres lying one mile south of Denver. This is known as the "Clear View Stock Farm," and is managed on a scale of modern efficiency and profit. Mrs. Newell was born in Carroll county, Indiana, and was educated in the public schools. Both her parents are deceased. Mrs. Newell is a member of the Methodist church. The politics of the doctor is Republican, and he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic fraternity. Dr. Newell and wife have a five-passenger Overland touring car, and their chief recreation is derived from its use.

CHARLES H. KERCHER. Foremost among the substantial agricultural men of the township of Perry, Miami county, Charles H. Kercher takes a leading place. He has wrought well in the chosen field of his activity and has come to be known for one of the capable and successful younger farming men of the community. Born in the county, on November 20, 1873, he was here reared and educated, and he is the son of Frederick and Rachel (Grimes) Kercher, and the grandson of Horace Grimes.

Frederick Kercher came to Miami county from Pennsylvania and settled on a farm adjoining the one his son occupies today, and there he lived until death removed him from the scene of his earthly activities. He was a hard working and earnest, God fearing man, a citizen of a splendid type, and one who shared in the confidence and esteem of all who knew him,—a credit to his community, and a man who lived uprightly all his days. He and his faithful wife are deceased. They were members of the Church of the Dunkards, and lived in accordance with the simple faith of that denomination.

Charles H. Kercher received his training in books in the district schools of his native community, and it may be stated in all candor that his education was a limited one, for his youth was devoted, for the most part, to the work of the home farm. After the death of the father, Mr. Kercher, who had by that time married and established a roof tree of his own, moved to another farm in Perry township, whence he later moved to his present place, which adjoins the old home place. He took possession of this place in 1903, and it stands today as it was



then, as regards the buildings that are in use upon it, but he has inaugurated many improvements in the way of fencings, ditches, etc., so that the farm is one of the most productive and attractive hundred and twenty acre tracts to be found in the township today. Mr. Kercher is a man who stands out for improvements at all times, and when he was the owner of his previous farm, he brought it up to a high state of productiveness and of general up-keep that made it one of the finest places of the community, and of which he had no difficulty in disposing when the time came for him to take another place.

Mr. Kercher was married on November 23, 1899, to Minnie Harmon, the daughter of Ananias and Susan (Wiles) Harmon. She was born on February 11, 1876, and her father is still a resident of Miami county. He was born in Ohio and came to these parts many years ago. He married in Miami county in 1873, and his wife died here in 1907. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kercher, as follows: Marie E., born January 7, 1901; Ralph T., born February 3, 1903; Opal J., born June 22, 1908; and LaMoine, born July 23, 1910.

Mr. Kercher is a Progressive in his political faith, formerly a staunch Republican, but his politics underwent a radical change in 1912, in common with many another old time Republican.

**IRA SEITNER.** Concerning the family of Ira Seitner, its origin and the life of certain members, a fuller account is given on other pages of this work, so that detailed mention of the family and ancestry of Mr. Seitner are not required at this point. He was born on the farm where he now lives on March 5, 1863, and is one of the eight children of his parents, who were Jacob and Caroline (Floorah) Seitner. The house in which Mr. Seitner lives today stands but a short distance from the one in which he was born fifty years ago.

Mr. Seitner was reared to farm life, with a rather scant education thrown in between farming seasons, and his life has been devoted to farming from his boyhood on. When his father died he divided his estate among his children, and Mr. Seitner is living upon his portion of the old home place.

January 11, 1891, Mr. Seitner married Sarah, who was the eldest daughter of George W. Tombaugh, and to them three children have been born: Nora E., born October 16, 1894; Mary Edith, who died in infancy; and Cora R., born December 22, 1899. The daughter Nora received her diploma from the public school and she is a third year student in the high school at Roann, Indiana. Mrs. Seitner finished her education in a college at Mt. Morris, Illinois, and is a woman of excellent mental endowments and intellectual attainments.

Mr. Seitner is one of the well known farming men in the township, and his property is represented by one hundred and seventy-eight acres. For the past seven years he has rented his land instead of operating it independently, and has taken his leisure more or less since that time as a result of that arrangement. The family are members of the Church of the Brethren, and are among the most popular and highly esteemed people in the community, where they have been known all their lives. Mr. Seitner is trustee and deacon of the church of his choice, also treasurer for some years. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Seitner is known by "Pine Lawn Stock Farm."

**REUBEN SEITNER.** The Seitner family, of which Reuben Seitner is a member, has been identified with the history of Miami county since 1847, when Jacob Seitner, the father of Reuben, came with his bride to this county and settled on a farm in Perry township. Since that time







Lucinda Patten John, C. Patten

men of the name Seitner have labored in the county for the development of the various districts with which they have been identified, and they have left an indelible imprint upon these communities. Jacob Seitner was born in Ohio and was the son of George Seitner, a native son of Maryland, who came to Ohio prior to the birth of his son, Jacob. On October 8, 1846, Jacob Seitner married Caroline, the daughter of Daniel Floorah, and with his young wife came to these parts, locating on a Perry township farm and there rearing his family. There were one hundred and sixty acres in that place, and the first home that graced the property site was a log cabin, while eleven acres of timber being deadened represented the only ground space available for cultivation. As the years passed Mr. Seitner and his faithful and energetic wife accumulated a goodly portion of property in Perry township, and upon their death, the estate was divided among the children, of whom there were eight born, and concerning whom brief mention is here made as follows: Silas, who married Lucy Yarion, died on October 26, 1881. Reuben married Mary Geeting, and concerning him extended mention is made further on in this review. Francis, who married Mary Smith. Mary, the wife of Frank Dewald. Ira, who is mentioned at length in a separate sketch married Sarah Ann Tombaugh. Catherine, the wife of William Greeting. Emery, who is unmarried and Samuel, who died on February 15, 1892. The father died on September 3, 1887, and the mother on November 18, 1884. Both were members of the German Reformed church, and were regarded as among the best people of their community.

Reuben Seitner, the second born son, and the eldest living member of the family today, was born on July 13, 1851, in Perry township, on the estate of which his present farm was once a part.

On February 24, 1883, he married Mary Elizabeth, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Glace) Geeting, and they took up their abode on the farm, two years later building the new brick house wherein they now reside. This farm came to Mr. Seitner as his share in his father's estate, which was a goodly one, and among the most extensive ever accumulated in the township. His share represented \$1,000.00 and he paid for the remaining 60 acres at \$50.00 per acre. He has brought about a great many notable improvements in the place, his fine new barn having been built as recently as 1909.

Mr. Seitner as a boy was educated in the Perry township schools, but as he was the oldest boy, his help was early needed at home, and his opportunities for book learning were thus limited. When the father died, Mr. Seitner was appointed executor of the estate, and he has given a careful stewardship of the charge laid upon him. He and his wife are members of the Church of God, and he was deacon of the church for two years and an elder for a similar period.

**JOHN C. PATTEN.** Americans will never cease to venerate the soldiers who offered themselves to save the Union in the dark days of the sixties, and as the survivors of that great war decrease in number as they answer the roll-call one after another, it seems that the affection of their younger country-men should grow in increasing ratio. Of these old soldiers Miami county has a fine representative in John C. Patten, since 1891, a resident of Deer Creek township.

John C. Patten was born in Sullivan county, Indiana, June 21, 1837, a son of William and a grandson of Mark Patten. The war records show that Mark Patten was a soldier in the War of 1812. William Patten's wife was a daughter of Eli Dicks Bunda, and her Christian name was Malinda.

John C. Patten was reared on his father's farm, and has been engaged



in agricultural pursuit all his life. At the time the Civil war broke out he was a resident of Tipton county. There he enlisted as a member of Company B, Seventy-Fifth Indiana Infantry, August 11, 1862, and served until July, 1865, when he was mustered out. During this period of almost three years he saw a great deal of campaigning and participated in a number of historic engagements. On September 19, 1863, on the Chickamauga battlefield he was shot through the left leg and taken prisoner. After his discharge from the army, Mr. Patten went to Howard county, from there to Tipton county, then back to Howard, later to Cass county and from Cass county he came in 1891 to Miami county. Here his investment in forty acres of unimproved land in Deer Creek township, may be said to have been the first practical step in a career of steady prosperity and advancement since that time. Going in debt for part of the land, and its improvements he settled down to the work of clearing, and in a few years had developed a comfortable little homestead. Mr. Patten has erected buildings and has made a great many improvements which increase the value and productiveness of his place. He now rents his fields and lives practically retired.

Mr. Patten is a pensioner on account of his services rendered in the Civil war, and is a popular member of the Grand Army of the Republic, being a past commander of his post two different times. He is a trustee in the local Horse Thief Association, and is affiliated with and a trustee of Crescent Lodge No. 280, A. F. & A. M., at Miami, Indiana. His and his good wife's religious faith is that of the Baptist church, with which denomination he has been identified since 1859.

On July 29, 1859, Mr. Patten married Margaret Lett, a daughter of Balaam and Sallie (Osborn) Lett. Her maternal grandfather was John Osborn. Her father was a Southerner, a native of Georgia, who came to Indiana before the war and he was a soldier in the Mexican war. Mrs. Patten is a native of Union county, Indiana, born February 27, 1846, and she is the only survivor of the family. She was educated in the common schools and the first school she attended was a log school-house. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Patten were born six children, named as follows: Denton S. C., born December 13, 1861, and now chief of police at Aikley, Minnesota, married Jennie Ridgeway; Sallie, born July 9, 1865, married Edward Munson, resident of Cass county, Indiana; William Thomas, who married Bertha Babb, of Cass county; John Grant, who is unmarried; Lurania F., the wife of Andrew J. Logan, in Cass county; and Judson O., unmarried at home. Mr. and Mrs. Patten are citizens who are held in the highest regard by all who know them. He is a man who has a double name—as a grand noble man as to integrity and as a soldier in the saving and honoring of the flag of his country.

FRANK E. WARD. Among the native sons of Miami county, Indiana, who have won success and prosperity within the limits of their own county, should be mentioned the name of F. E. Ward, of Perry township. His father was a farmer in this township before him, and both father and son have held a high place in the esteem of their fellow citizens. Mr. Ward has been a hard working and industrious farmer, with modern and progressive ideas, and the fine condition in which his farm is at present is clear testimony of his painstaking and untiring work.

Frank E. Ward was born in Perry township, on the 8th of August, 1858, the son of John T. Ward and Susanna (James) Ward. John T. Ward was the son of John Ward, and was born in the state of Virginia. He came with his father into Franklin county, Indiana, when he was a very young boy, and here his father settled on a farm where

they lived until 1850. Mr. Ward first married in Franklin county, his wife being a Miss Schofield. There were four children by this marriage, namely: James, Joel, Rebecca and Mary. Their mother died in Franklin county.

Susanna James, the mother of Frank E. Ward, was the daughter of Conklin James. She first married Sylvanus Newton and came to Miami county, Indiana, with him in 1837. They located on a farm in Perry township, the same farm where F. E. Ward was reared. Here Mr. Newton built a log cabin in the woods and then began to clear the land. Mrs. Ward often told of the way they used to drive through the woods to Logansport and further on to Michigan City when they wanted to buy salt and other staples. Here Mr. Newton lived until his death. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Newton; Eli, Harvey and Mary. After the death of Mr. Newton his widow married John T. Ward and they continued to live on her farm. This property consisted of eighty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Ward died in Wabash, Ind.

Frank E. Ward grew to young manhood on his father's farm, receiving his education in the little log school house. In those days a term of school amounted to four months of the year and although the pupils were only taught a very rudimentary knowledge, what they learned they learned perfectly. They knew the old blue-backed speller by heart and the multiplication table as well as their own name, a rarity in these days. After his district school education was completed, Mr. Ward attended a normal school for a time and then he himself became a teacher. He taught in Perry township and in Fulton county, Indiana, and for twelve years this was his vocation.

After this he settled on a farm in Allen township which consisted of eighty acres and had an old log barn and frame house on it. He built a good barn on the place, ditched it and cleared about twenty acres of land. Later he traded this farm for the one on which he lives at present, having lived on the first farm for about eight years. There were 120 acres on this farm and the present buildings were also built at that time. He has however repaired them and improved them in many ways, by the addition of lightning rods and by putting on new roofing. He has done a great deal of ditching about the place and has built many rods of fence. He has also added to the property until it now consists of 155 acres. Mr. Ward does general farming, shipping some of his produce away and selling the rest to local dealers.

It was in 1886 that Mr. Ward was married to Miss Minerva Cunningham, a daughter of William Cunningham and Eliza (Williams) Cunningham. Mr. and Mrs. Ward have had six children born to them, as follows: Nellie, who married Francis Zegafuse; Edna, who married Russell Reahard; Myrtle; Hazel; Emma and Russell. The beautiful modern residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ward, erected in 1913, is a two-story and basement building, heated by furnace and lighted by electricity, and it is a modern home in all its detail. The homestead is known as "Sunny View Stock Farm."

The father of Mr. Ward attended the Methodist Episcopal church but Mr. Ward is a member of the Baptist church and has been a trustee of his church for twelve years. In politics he is a member of the Republican party.

S. S. SMITH. The Smith family is undeniably one of the most interesting ones in these parts, and a brief contemplation of their history at this point is particularly fitting in a work of the nature of this historical and biographical work. They have been identified with the history of Miami county since they came hither in 1845, and men



of the name and of their immediate family branch have had generous share in the development and upbuilding of the county. S. S. Smith, the immediate subject of this review, was born in Fulton county, Indiana, in 1853, and is the son of Lewis and Mary Smith, and the grandson of Michael Smith. Both father and grandfather were German born, their birth place being about twelve miles from Straussberg, Germany, and the grandfather brought his family to Miami county in 1845.

Michael Smith entered the first government farm in Miami county, and walked to Indianapolis to get the title deeds to the place. He built a log cabin on his farm home, and settled down to a steady and persistent toil on the place, the results of which were soon apparent. The country was in a particularly wild and unimproved state in those years, with roads of the worst possible nature, so bad that wagons would sink in the mud to the hubs in inclement weather, and altogether presenting a decided drawback to the development of the country. The nearest road was the Erie railroad, and Mr. Smith, with others, took up a subscription to induce that road to run a line into their community, which proved a wise expenditure on their part.

Lewis Smith continued with his father for some years, helping manfully with the work of the new home place, and when he moved to Fulton county it was to settle on a place of his own, where he continued to live until he died at the age of seventy-two. The grandfather of the subject, Michael Smith, lived to the fine old age of eighty-two, the family being one that is known for the longevity of its members.

S. S. Smith was one of the ten children of his parents. The others are here mentioned briefly as follows: Jake, who married Lydia, the daughter of Jacob Seitner; William, who married Jennie Neff; Charles, who married Etta Grindle; Nancy, the wife of Frank Hoffman; Mary, who married Francis Seitner; Henry A., who died at the age of two months; Jonathan died when one year old; and John, who lived to be twelve years of age.

The father of this goodly family was known for one of the most successful men of the county wherein he lived. He raised the first barley that was grown in these parts, and gave much of his time to that crop, often having as much as 20 acres seeded to barley. Mr. Smith, of this review, recalls very distinctly the early days of Fulton and Miami counties, and recounts with zest many interesting stories of pioneer life here and there. He received his schooling in the district schools of both counties, his attendance being limited to three months in each year, but he managed to acquire a solid basis of learning for future accomplishments, so that he has not passed through life entirely untaught.

In 1878 Mr. Smith married Mary, the daughter of Daniel Shilling, another of the pioneer settlers of the county, and in 1881 he took up his abode in his present home in Perry township. He has a fine place of eighty acres, all in excellent condition, properly fenced and ditched, and with modern buildings ornamenting the whole. In addition to his Miami county property, he has a farm of one hundred acres in Fulton county, which, until the present year, he has operated in conjunction with his home place. His operations in the agricultural field have been especially prosperous, and have indicated the true nature of the man in their business like and well directed activities.

Mr. Smith, and all of his family, are members of the Evangelical church, and he is particularly active in the work of the various departments of that body. He has taught in the Sunday school for the past thirteen years, and at present has a class of nineteen young ladies who depend upon him for instruction in Biblical truths. He is a citizen of

the finest calibre, and his residence here has been marked by an honest and earnest interest in the affairs of the community, in which he is ever willing and ready to share his just burden of responsibility.

JOHN W. SMITH has performed his full share of the development work that has gone to make Perry township the flowering spot it has been for many years and all credit should be accorded to him as one of the estimable and valuable men. All his life has been spent on the farm on which he was born, and which in his young boy and manhood he helped his father to convert into a fruitful and profit yielding farm, from a state of rank forest growth and all around wilderness. Mr. Smith was born on the Perry township farm in Miami county on December 5, 1846, and is the son of Hiram and Pleasant (Weaver) Smith. The father and mother were both natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married and they came to Miami county in 1836, entering land from the government and settling down to a life of toil and hardship attendant upon the reclaiming of a piece of virgin land and the making of a home in the wilderness.

A dense forest marked the spot which is today one of the showy farms of the township, and long years of weary toil on the part of the pioneer father and his sturdy sons re-built the face of the landscape with the succeeding seasons. A small cabin was built by the young husband, and he, in his life time, saw to the clearing of the south eighty acres of the quarter section, the north eighty having been looked after by the son, who is the present incumbent of the property. Following the death of the father, the place fell to the three children, and Mr. Smith came into full possession through purchase from his brother and sister. Here he has since continued, and has brought about many improvements that have greatly enhanced the general value of the property, and make it one of the best kept places in the township.

Mr. Smith was married September 25, 1870, to Miss Mary Ash, the daughter of Abraham Ash and Hannah (Logue) Ash. No children have blessed their union.

Mrs. Smith is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born October 1, 1846, and she is the fifth on a farm of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, born to Abraham and Hannah (Logue) Ash. There are five daughters and two sons living. William Ash is a resident of Missouri and a farmer. Atsey is the widow of William Harmon and a resident of California. Martha E. is the wife of J. R. Ridge and they are residents of California. Elizabeth, the widow of Henry Lower is a resident of Perry township and a member of the Baptist church.

Mrs. Smith's father was a native of Pennsylvania and was a tailor by trade, and also an agriculturist. He came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where he was married and thence to Indiana in 1852. Mrs. Ash was also a native of Pennsylvania. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ash were members of the Methodist church and both are deceased.

The parents of Mr. Smith died on the old farm home in Perry township and they were long members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Smith also has membership in the church that sheltered his parents. He is prominent in local politics and is now acting as trustee of his township, to which office he was elected on the Republican ticket in 1908, and in which he has given a most praiseworthy service.

During his term of office he has built ten cement bridges in the township of Perry. He has ten schools to supervise, besides the excellent High School of Gilead, one of the accredited schools in the state. The beautiful and costly building was erected in 1900 and is one of the ornamental school houses of the county. The schools are in excellent condition and are controlled by an able corps of teachers.



**JAMES H. SMITH.** A well known citizen and farmer of Miami county, Indiana, is J. H. Smith of Perry township. He has lived in this county for many years and has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. As a farmer he has attained success, not through good fortune but solely through hard work, and carefully directed work. He is a farmer of ability, who understands the soil with which he has to deal, and he has succeeded in raising fine crops, and has one of the most lucrative as well as attractive farms in the township.

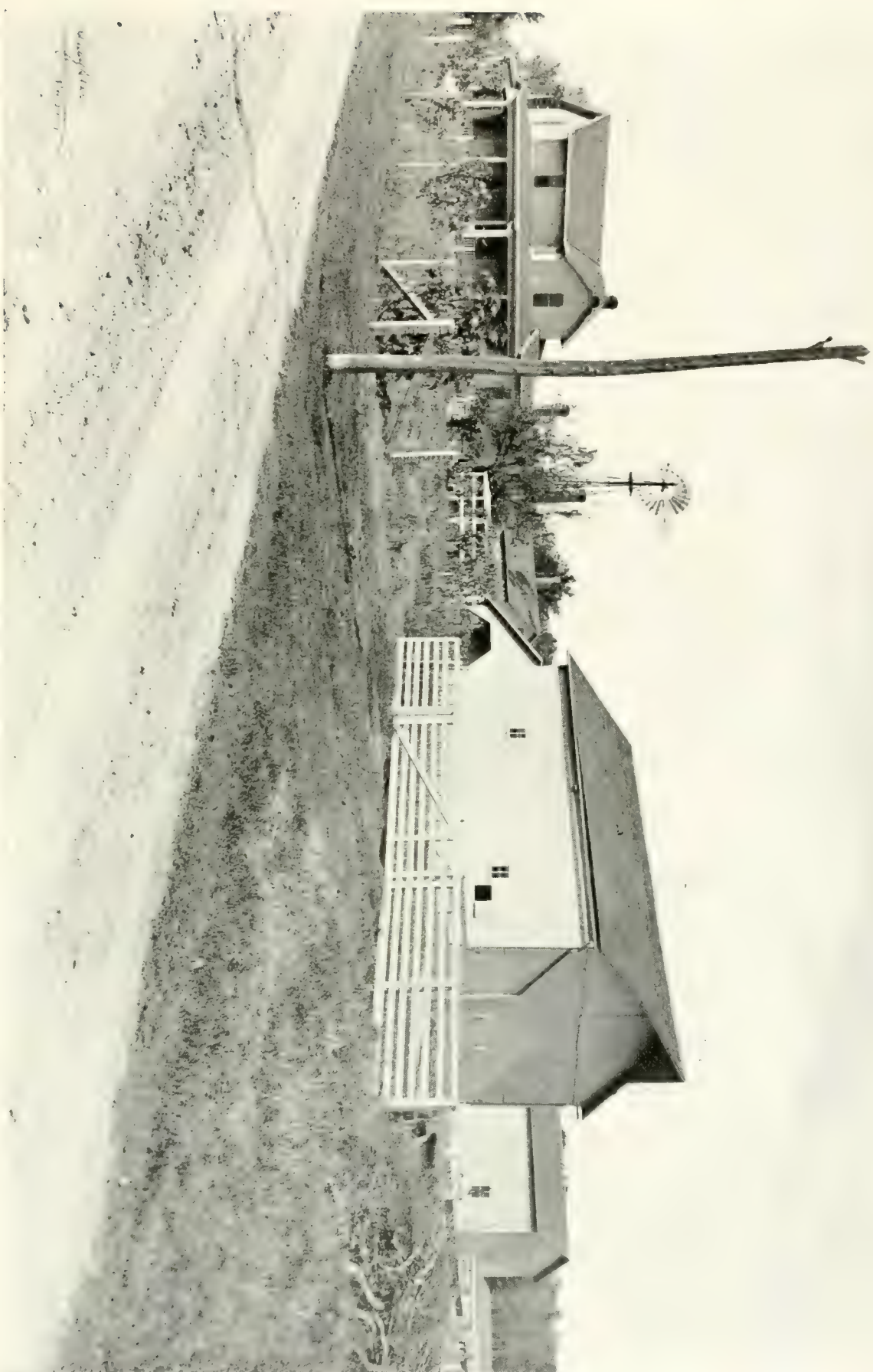
The father of J. H. Smith was Henry Smith, a native of New Jersey. In 1851 Henry Smith came to Indiana and settled in Miami county, in Richland township, two and a half miles east of Chili. The property consisted of 107 acres, very little of which was cleared land. There was nothing on the place but a log cabin, but Henry Smith set to work with the energy of the early pioneer and before his death which occurred on the 2nd of April, 1852, he had the materials and everything prepared to build a new home. With the courage typical of the women of her day, his widow set to work and erected the house, which together with the log stable comprised the buildings of the farm. Henry Smith had married in New Jersey Miss Matilda Burling. After her husband's death Mrs. Smith married a second time, her husband being Elijah Lowe. They became the parents of four children: Cornelius, Peter, Isaac and Martha.

J. H. Smith was born in Dayton, Ohio, on the 24th of October, 1849. He was therefore only a baby when his parents came to Indiana. He grew up on the farm but he was very young when he left his mother's house and went to work on his own account. He first worked for neighboring farmers and continued in this way for two years, at the end of which time he found employment in a saw mill. After working in the saw mill for eighteen months he began to work at the carpenter's trade, continuing thus for four years. After this he went into the saw mill business for himself and for seventeen years was a well known lumberman of this section, his mill being located in Perry township. He then traded his property for his present farm in Perry township. There were at the time some of the present buildings on the farm but he has thoroughly repaired the house and barn and has added a number of smaller buildings. There was only one ditch on the place, which consisted of  $102 \frac{80}{100}$  acres, and now there are over five hundred dollars' worth of buried tile drains. He has also built a good deal of fencing and has put the farm into fine shape generally. He raises all the standard crops for this section.

In politics Mr. Smith is a Republican and in the fraternal world his affiliations are with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, his membership being with Gilead Lodge No. 354, of which he has been a member for forty years. He served as trustee of the township from 1895 to 1899.

Mr. Smith was married September 30, 1874, to Miss Mary McKee, a daughter of John McKee and Elizabeth (Houser) McKee. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, two of whom are dead, namely, Frank, who died at the age of four years; Charles, who died at the age of six months; Corey, who married Fred Blackburn; and who has two children, Hanley and Harold; Ross who is unmarried and lives with his parents; and Ruth and Mabel, who are both unmarried and live at home.

**JAMES M. COUCHER.** The importance of Bennetts Switch to the farming community in the southwest part of Miami county is largely due to the grain and elevator business conducted at that point by Mr. James



*Longview  
of the 1890's*

“LONGVIEW”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES M. COTCHER





M. Coucher. Mr. Coucher is one of the men who began life at the bottom, and by industry and economy work up to a place of influence and commercial standing in the community. He is now proprietor of the large grain elevator at Bennetts Switch, and has also been twice honored with the chief responsibilities of township government.

James M. Coucher was born near the town of Bunker Hill, Pipe Creek township, this county, August 25, 1865. His father was William and his grandfather Jacob Coucher, while the maiden name of his mother was Mary E. Nesbit, a daughter of Walter D. Nesbit. The father settled on a farm near the village of Bunker Hill during the early sixties, and in the Civil war was a soldier for the Union, spending a life of honored activity in its every relation. He died at a good old age on November 28, 1912, while his wife passed away in 1879.

Mr. James M. Coucher was married August 18, 1888, to Miss Louise C. Lawrence, a daughter of James F. Lawrence. They are the parents of two daughters, both of whom are now attending school. Genevieve is attending State University at Bloomington, Indiana, and is a member of the class of 1913 and Elba M. is attending the Conservatory of Music at Indianapolis, Indiana. They are being educated liberally for lives of usefulness and influence. Mrs. Louise C. (Lawrence) Coucher is a native of the city of Peru, Indiana, born December 16, 1869, a daughter of James F. and Marguerite (Taylor) Lawrence. Five of the Lawrence family are living in 1913, and four are residents of Miami county. The sister, Viola, wife of Horace Clark, is a resident of Howard county, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence were both natives of Montgomery county, Ohio. He was by vocation an agriculturist. He was one of the noble men, who, at the sound of the tocsin of war enlisted in the 39th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and afterwards was a member of the 38th Cavalry. He was in the same company as Mr. Coucher's father and they participated in some of the heavy battles of war, being present at the terrible two days' battle of Chickamauga, was at Stone River and other actions. Mr. Lawrence was a Democrat politically and he and wife were members of the Methodist church.

Mrs. Coucher is a pleasant and social lady and her friends in Miami county are many. She received a good practical education in the public schools of the county and her pretty modern home and her family comprise her paradise. She and her husband may well be proud of their two daughters as they are preparing themselves in the best educational institutions of the state.

The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Coucher, known as "Longview," is modern in detail. Lighted by acetylene, heated by a hot water plant and the library well stocked with standard literature, indicates the intelligence of the family.

Mr. Coucher was reared and received his education in his native vicinity, and when he was twenty years of age began working for wages in the grain business. He continued in the employ of others for a number of years, but all the time was acquiring valuable experience and was accumulating some savings which in 1900 enabled him to establish himself independently in the same line of business at Bennetts Switch. His elevator, bearing his name, is now one of the chief features of this little village, and is the center of a large amount of business. Mr. Coucher has served his township two terms in the office of trustee. He was trustee from 1890 to 1895 and again from 1900 to 1904. He was reared in the Methodist faith and fraternally is affiliated with the Red Men and the Masonic order.

SAMUEL W. BUTT. Among the prosperous farmers of Miami county, Indiana, may be mentioned Samuel W. Butt, who has lived in this



section of the state of Indiana for many years. He owns a large farm which he has improved and developed and which yields him a generous return for the labor he has spent on it. Mr. Butt is popular and highly respected in Perry township, and is known throughout the county as an honorable man and valuable citizen.

Samuel W. Butt was born in Jefferson township, Miami county, on the 8th of September, 1849, a son of Regneld Butt. The latter came to Miami county at an early date and settled on a farm in Perry township adjoining the one which is now owned by Samuel W. Butt. He bought this farm from Jonas Cleland who bought it from the Erie Canal Company. He cleared the land and erected a cabin of round logs and here he lived until his death which occurred in 1853. The mother of Samuel W. Butt was Phoebe Kinzie. After the father's death, his sons took charge of the farm, and after a time Samuel W. Butt went to live with his uncle, Benjamin Kinzie in Cass county. He later came to his present farm which was owned by David Keefer at that time. He remained with him for eleven years, and then he married and settled on a farm of forty acres in Allen township. There was a log cabin on the farm and here he made his home for a few years until he sold the place and bought the farm that is now owned by Emmond De Wald. He lived there until 1895 when he bought the present farm of 128 acres. All of the present buildings were already on the place, but he has added numerous improvements both to the buildings and the farm in general.

Mr. Butt is a member of the Church of God and has been an elder in his church. In political matters he is a member of the Republican party and his fraternal allegiance is with the Maccabees. Mr. Butt was married in 1875 to Miss Martha Fites, a daughter of John W. Fites. There were six children born to this union, as follows: Walter, who married Alice Kile, and has five children, namely, Martha, Earl, John, Mildred, and Dorothy; Warren, who married Maud Tombaugh, and has one child, Don George; Glee, who married Elmer Fites and has three children, as follows, Ruth, Grace and Ralph; Ray, who married Tresa Walters and their three children are Blanche, Clifford and Esther; Harry, who married Anna Burkholder and is the father of two children, Howard and Edith; Bliss is unmarried. After the death of his first wife Mr. Butt married again, his second wife being Miss Dora Kiefer, a daughter of Jacob Kiefer. To this union three children have been born, as follows, Hazel, Samuel and Phoebe.

**HENRY K. BUTT.** A man whom his neighbors and friends hold in the highest regard, is Henry K. Butt, of Miami county, Indiana, and he is due the regard and esteem of everyone, for he has not only lived an honorable and upright life, but he is one of the veterans of that fast diminishing army that fought through the terrible days of the Civil war. Mr. Butt is now well along in life but he is still active and operates his farm with the same enthusiasm and interest which he has always displayed.

Henry Butt was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, on the 14th of October, 1839, the son of Regneld Butt. His father's first wife was named Fiste, and after her death he married again, his second wife being Phoebe Kinzie. When Henry Butt was 13 years of age his father died and the boy then had to go to work to aid in the support of the family. Consequently he received very little education. This early training in responsibility fitted him for the trials and suffering which he was soon to know, for the shadow of the Civil war was already cast over the land. When the crash did come, Henry Butt was eager to enlist and in 1861 he became a member of the Fortieth Regiment of Indiana

Infantry, Company "B." He was from this time until the close of the war in 1865 in continual service and the time was one of hardship and danger and all the horrors of war. His mother died during the war but he could not leave his command to come to her or to attend her funeral. He received a few bullets through his clothes and several times had narrow escapes from death, but he was never seriously wounded, and came out unscathed.

After the war was at an end, Mr. Butt came to Indiana and located on his present farm in Perry township, Miami county. The house on the farm at that time was built of logs and Mr. Butt built the present house and has added the improvements which have made the farm a modern and prosperous one. It consists of sixty-one acres.

Mr. Butt is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in his political views he affiliates with the Republican party. He married Miss Mary P. Fites, a daughter of Andrew M. Fites, of one of the pioneer families of Miami county. They have had no children but they have reared a number of other children, giving them an education and a good start in life.

JASPER J. CRAIG, a native son of Miami county, is one of those men who having tried other lands come back in time to the soil where they were born and bred. Jasper J. Craig is one of the successful farmers of Perry township, Miami county, and during his younger days he tried his fortunes in the Far West but finally determined that there was no better place than the Hoosier state and so returned hither. He has been a prominent citizen of Perry township for many years and is well known as a practical and successful farmer. He traces his lineage to Scotland, from whence came his grandfather.

Born in Perry township on the 14th of November, 1850, Mr. Craig is the son of John Craig and Polly (Layborn) Craig. His grandfather was also named John Craig, and his maternal grandfather was William Layborn. It was in 1844 that Jasper Craig's father came to Miami county, Indiana. Previous to this he had lived in Springfield, in Clark county, Ohio, and it was here that he was married. He and his wife drove through the country with a pair of horses and when they finally reached the spot where they concluded to settle it was in the primeval forests. John Craig built his first home of logs, and it was in this little log cabin that Jasper Craig was born. The land was all covered with heavy timber, and there were eighty acres of it, but Mr. Craig was a hardy frontiersman and he in time cleared all of this land. Here they lived until October 17, 1890, when they moved to Akron, in Fulton county. Here Mr. Craig lived until the time of his death which occurred in 1909.

Jasper J. Craig received his education in Perry township, the log school house which he attended being about eighteen by twenty-four feet in size, and the seats had round top desks in which they had to turn around in order to write. The pupils could only go to school when there was no work for them on the farms and so they averaged about a month and a half of school during the year. Mr. Craig remained at home until 1871 and then he set out in the good old fashioned way to seek his fortune. He went to Kansas and then to Wyoming, Nevada and California. In all the places where he stopped he worked on the ranches, but after a time, having saved some money he determined to return home.

Upon his arrival in Miami county he bought his present farm, which at that time contained eighty acres. He has since added a tract of 200 acres to the property. He has added all the improvements that make the place an up-to-date farm and does general farming.



Mr. Craig is a member of the Church of God, at Akron, Indiana and is one of the trustees of the church. He was at one time an active Mason, but he now has no fraternal affiliations. Mr. Craig was married in 1886 to Phoebe R. Blauser, a daughter of Solomon and Susan (Winehart) Blauser. They have five children, as follows: Zona May, Orval James, Orin Chester, Rhoda Resella, and Odus Benjamin. Zona May received her diploma in the class of 1902 and then took two years of high school work in the Gilead High School. Orval James finished the eighth grade and is at home with parents. Orin Chester also finished eighth grade work; Rhoda Resella received her diploma in 1909, and is now in the fourth year of high school work and a member of the Gilead High School class of 1914. Odus Benjamin finished the eighth grade in 1914.

Mrs. Craig was educated in the common schools and she has done her part nobly as a wife and mother. She is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church Board. Her parents are dead. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Craig is known as "Shady Lawn Farm," situated north of Gilead.

**NOAH B. BARNHISEL.** One of the successful farming men of Perry township and a man whose life has been one of the most uplifting character, resulting undeniably, in a deal of good in his community, is Noah Barnhisel, who was born on the farm he now operates and owns, on November 4, 1863. Mr. Barnhisel is the son of Cornelius and the grandson of Jacob Barnhisel, while his mother was Elizabeth (Hoffman) Barnhisel.

In 1852 Cornelius Barnhisel brought his family to Miami county and settled on the farm now the home of the subject. He entered the Union army in 1864, and died in the service. His body was interred at Washington, D. C., and it was not until this year that the subject was able to locate the grave of the fallen soldier. Mr. Barnhisel was a member of Company G, Fifty-ninth Indiana Regiment, and during his life time was an active member of the Evangelical church. After the death of the father and husband, Mrs. Barnhisel and her older sons carried on the work of the farm, and there continued to reside. In more recent years the subject came into ownership of the place, and he has done much in the way of improving the old home and bringing it up to a productive and highly creditable state such as it now enjoys. All the present fine buildings were built by him since he came into ownership, with the exception of the barn, which the mother and elder sons built some years back. The place is attractive in appearance, and has a well kept appearance that lends an air of prosperity and good business management that is found to be present upon a closer inspection of the farm. Its two hundred and thirty acres are all under cultivation and yield abundantly to the master touch of the owner.

Mr. Barnhisel was married on May 3, 1885, to Miss Mary Kramer the daughter of Andrew and Susanne (Richebank) Kramer. One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Barnhisel, Jesse W., who married Blanche Sidner, and they have a son who is named Doine Richard Barnhisel. The family are members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Barnhisel is especially active and prominent in the work of the church. He has been a class leader for sixteen years, and has taught in the Sunday school for twenty-four years past, a service that has done much to aid in the development of the young minds of the community in the better ways of life and living. In his civic activities, he has demonstrated his high character as a citizen, and has served as a justice of the peace during one term. Although he has not been a man to seek public office, his influence in the community has had an undeniably excellent effect, and







“SOUTH LAWN STOCK FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. ALBERT J. PHELPS

has been felt in local politics, as well as in other circles in the community. He and his family enjoy the unlimited confidence and esteem of a wide circle of friends in the community, where they are well known for the many excellent qualities that dominate their lives. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Barnhisel is known as "Oak Grove Farm."

**ALBERT J. PHELPS.** Among the old families of Miami county the Phelpses have had a prominent place since the early fifties in which decade Miami county was still only a little removed from pioneer conditions. Throughout its residence, the family has been noted for its fine qualities of industry, its solid integrity, and its good citizenship, in every way. They did their share in breaking up and clearing the land, and in establishing homes in the wilderness during the early days, and during the subsequent half century or more their lives have been led along the paths of quiet industry and prosperity, and as farmers and good citizens, they have contributed all that they owed to the enrichment of community life and enterprise.

Albert J. Phelps who is representing the third generation of the family, and who is manager of a portion of the fine Phelps homestead in Clay township, was born where he now lives, on July 26, 1876, a son of Andrew J. and Caroline C., (Wyrick) Phelps. His grandfather Bissell Phelps was the founder of the name in this part of Indiana. Bissell Phelps was born March 27, 1805 in Lewis county, New York, and there was married on October 28, 1832, to Margaret Loucke. She was born in Herkimer county, New York, August 24, 1806. After their marriage they lived and prospered in Lewis county until 1853, and that year marked their removal from the east to Indiana, and their settlement in June of the same year in Clay township was the beginning of sixty years of residence for the Phelps family. The land on which Bissell Phelps established his home at that time is now included in the old homestead. Bissell Phelps was a man of hardy industry, enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his community, and his years came to a close at his home in Miami county on April 4, 1898, when he was ninety-three years of age. His wife passed away April 30, 1884. For many years in connection with general farming, Bissell Phelps ran a cheese dairy. The children were as follows: Charles J.; Andrew J.; Mary W.; Charles, deceased; Ellen J., and Caroline.

The second son, Andrew J. Phelps, was born in Lewis county, New York, November 21, 1831. He was twenty-two years of age when he came to Miami county, had been reared and prepared for his active career in New York State, and after locating in Miami county was closely identified with the business and civic activities of his community as long as he lived. On December 21, 1869, Andrew J. Phelps married Caroline C. Wyrick. The children of this marriage are mentioned as follows: George Bissell, born September 17, 1871; Franklin C., born April 13, 1874; Albert J., born July 26, 1876; Thomas W., born January 1, 1879; and Nelson H., born December 15, 1887. During his young manhood Albert J. Phelps has always been an agriculturist.

A period of years were devoted by him to general farming, and one of the important features of his enterprise in this connection was the management of the cheese dairy which his father had established and which afforded an important service to the community. Andrew J. Phelps died August 1, 1897.

Albert J. Phelps, third among the sons, is now employing all his energies in conducting eighty acres of land, forming a part of the original homestead on which his grandfather settled sixty years ago. The estate of the late Andrew J. Phelps, altogether, five hundred acres,



is still held intact, and the heirs have managed it jointly without partition for the sixteen years since their father's death. The portion under his direction supervision, Albert J. Phelps has improved in various ways, and has made of it a model farmstead.

On November 23, 1898, Albert J. Phelps and Pearl B. Brown were united in marriage. To them have been born two children, Carrie Mabel, born August 29, 1899; and Eva Alice, born November 25, 1901. Mrs. Phelps is a daughter of Cyrus and Ora (Cline) Brown. When she was a child she lost her mother, and was reared in the home of her uncle J. H. Humrickhouse of Bennett's Switch. Mr. Phelps and family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and his fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias, Castle Hall No. 362, at Galveston, Ind., and the Improved Order of Red Men, Mongotha Tribe No. 267, at Miami.

Mr. Phelps was a member of the Miami county council for some four years, which for a young man, gave him a drill and an incite to county affairs which have been of inestimable value to him, as a business man of affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps are young people descendants of the best families in Miami county and are citizens who hold a high place in the respect and esteem of their large circle of friends and acquaintances. They have one of the beautiful homes for which Southern Miami county is noted and their home is the abode of hospitality. It is well named as the "South Lawn Stock Farm."

**GEORGE W. TOMBAUGH.** One of the well established and more substantial men of affairs in Perry township, where he has lived for many years, is George W. Tombaugh, who owns a fine farm in this community and devotes himself to its care and culture. He was born in Jefferson township, Miami county, on December 24, 1837, and is the son of George Tombaugh, who was born on October 28, 1796, and who married Susan Meyers on October 2, 1817.

In 1836 George and Susanna (Meyers) Tombaugh went from their native state, Pennsylvania, to Ohio and thence moved to Indiana, settling in Miami county, where the subject was born. He did not long remain in Jefferson township, however, and established the family home in Perry township early in life, here engaging in farming. He prospered, it is sufficient to say, and from the small log house that first sheltered him and his little family, he was soon able to graduate into a finer and more commodious frame dwelling, where the family was reared to maturity. George W. Tombaugh's father died June 19, 1880, aged 83 years, 7 months and 21 days, and his mother died October 14, 1850.

In 1862 George W. Tombaugh married Elizabeth Ann Deardorff who was born on July 1, 1840, and died on April 15, 1905. She was the mother of seven children, concerning whom brief mention is made as follows: Sarah, the eldest, born on December 17, 1863, married Ira Seitner; John Henry, born January 12, 1865, died on October 3, 1881; Jacob L., born on May 28, 1867, married Elizabeth Whitmire; Mary Ann, born January 11, 1871, became the wife of Joseph Hetter; Emma Jane, born September 10, 1874, died on March 18, 1883; Laura Etta, born January 6, 1877, died on February 17, 1877; Leone Elizabeth, born on April 14, 1884, died on August 13, 1910.

Following his marriage Mr. Tombaugh settled on the east portion of the old home place, and here he has ever since resided. He has a farm of one hundred and sixteen acres, and all the buildings that stand upon the place today are his own work, having replaced the older structures with newer and more modern ones in recent years. His place is a very attractive and prosperous looking one, and gives every evidence of the

thrift and enterprise that are dominant characteristics of their owner and manager.

Some two years after the death of Mrs. Tombaugh, Mr. Tombaugh was united in marriage with Mrs. Eliza Baker, the daughter of William Hand, the ceremony being solemnized on November 13, 1906. Mrs. Tombaugh was born September 2, 1860, and is well known in these parts, where she has passed her life thus far. She and her husband are members of the Church of the Brethren, in which the Tombaugh family were reared by their parents.

**ABNER J. ALSPACH**, born and bred to the life of the farm has found in that life his own vocation. As one of the prominent and successful farmers of Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, he is well known throughout this region. He is a native son of Perry township and has lived in this vicinity during his entire life and is consequently keenly interested in the development and general welfare of the community.

Abner J. Alspach was born in Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, just one mile north of the farm where he now lives, on the 26th of June, 1864. He is a son of Gideon Alspach and a grandson of Jacob Alspach. Gideon Alspach was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and there grew to manhood. He married Catherine Kinsler, a daughter of John Kinsler, and settled in Miami county, Indiana, in 1854. Here in Perry township he located on a farm of eighty acres. There was a house but no barn on the place and the land was all timbered. Gideon Alspach cleared the land and built a barn and otherwise improved the farm and here he remained until his death. Mrs. Alspach is still living and spends her time visiting among her children. Gideon Alspach was a member of the Church of God.

Growing up in the early days of this section of Indiana, when everyone's hands were required to help in the farm work, young Abner Alspach had little opportunities for anything in the way of an education. What little he did receive came from the district schools of Perry township. After growing to manhood, Abner Alspach left his father's home and renting John Butler's farm set out to make his own way in the world. He remained on this farm for two years and then rented the Israel Taylor place where he remained for eight years. After this he returned to his old home and operated his father's farm for four years. By this time he had enough money saved to buy a farm of his own and he purchased the place which he now owns. This farm contains eighty-five acres and he has improved the house, built a fine barn, and fenced and ditched the whole place.

Mr. Alspach is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, affiliating with Gilead Lodge, No. 354, being one of the trustees of his lodge. It was in 1887 that Abner Alspach and Ida Clark, a daughter of Simon and Amelia (Metzger) Clark, were united in marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Alspach have nine children, as follows: Grace, who was born on August 15, 1888, is now the wife of Arthur Whistler; Jessie, who was born on December 11, 1891; Alpha, whose birth took place on the 10th of April, 1892; Hazel, who was born on the 10th of December, 1894; John, the date of whose birth was May 7, 1896; Allen, also born in May, on the 9th of the month, 1900; Carl, who was born January 13, 1903; Clark, born on the 26th of June, 1906, and Lowell, who was born April 3, 1909. All the children attended the schools of Perry township and the following children received their diplomas from the public schools: Grace, Jessie, Alpha and Hazel. Jessie, Alpha and Hazel



have received partial training in the High School. The beautiful farmstead of Mr. and Mrs. Alspach is named "The Catalpa Lawn Farm."

SILAS J. SPROAL. That enterprise and good management are well rewarded in the country life of Miami county, needs no better illustration than the career of Silas Sproal, whose fine homestead lies in Harrison township. About thirty years ago, soon after his marriage, he located on part of his present farm, and in the beginning had practically nothing but the land. Combining the cultivation of mixed crops with the raising of high-grade stock, he has developed a business that of itself would be considered valuable without reference to its capital investments. Under his supervision his farm has been cleared, has been improved with modern barns, and other equipment, and his estate will now compare favorably with that of any in Miami county.

Soon after the removal of the Indians from Miami county, a number of families from Holmes county, Ohio, came to Indiana, and established themselves on land vacated by the Redmen. Among those who came in 1848 was Nobertus Sproal. He was born in Germany, November 3, 1830, was brought to America during his sixth year, and was reared in Holmes county, Ohio. His father was Walburg Sproal. The grandmother died in Holmes county. Nobertus Sproal was married in Howard county, Indiana, to Miss Catherine Schrock, a daughter of Jacob Schrock. She was born May 9, 1828, and died in Howard county, November 28, 1905, at the age of seventy-seven years, six months and seventeen days. Immediately after his marriage Nobertus Sproal settled on a farm in Harrison township in Miami county, and in this locality he passed the rest of his life. He died in the adjoining county of Howard in 1895 at a ripe old age.

It was on his father's farm, January 14, 1858, that Silas J. Sproal was born. That farm which was his birthplace lies adjacent to the one now owned by Silas in Harrison township, and is a part of the same section. Here his boyhood days were passed, not unlike those of the sons of other farmers, of northern Indiana. He worked in the clearing and grubbing of the land, followed the plow, and wielded an ax, occasionally got an opportunity to play, but more often he worked, and his education was exceedingly practical and included a meagre knowledge of books. The winter terms of school he attended were held at McCoy, one mile from the Buckeye school and the Buckeye school house was on the line between Harrison township and Howard county, that being the first school house in that community.

On March 4, 1884, Silas married Miss Anna A. Murphy, a daughter of Israel and Elizabeth (Larrison) Murphy. In their early married life Mr. and Mrs. Sproal moved about and lived at several localities within the same general neighborhood. However, they soon settled on their present farm, which lies within sight of the place where Silas Sproal was born. When they located there, they found land with practically no improvement of a substantial nature, the only building of which it could boast being an old log cabin that had been put up by John Vin-edge, who was the pioneer settler there and had occupied the rude structure until his death. This log house was afterwards torn down. Mr. Sproal built his barn in 1902, and the other buildings were erected about 1885. Eighty acres of his land had been cleared when he took possession and he himself has worked industriously with his own hands, or has supervised the clearing of the other eighty. For many years his crops have been up to the standard of Miami county agriculture, and he has contrived to prosper year in and year out.

Mr. and Mrs. Sproal were the parents of four children, but two,

twins, died in infancy. The remaining two are Grover C. and Lester D. Grover was born November 15, 1889, married Miss Bessie Kelley, a daughter of Joseph Kelley, and they have one child, Beulah Lucile, born July 3, 1912. The son Lester, who was born August 23, 1896, is still attending school in McCoy school. Mrs. Sproal is a native of Howard county, Indiana, born January 19, 1864. She was the eldest of ten children, six sons and four daughters, born to her parents, Israel and Elizabeth (Larrison) Murphy.

Eight of the children are living at present time 1913 and all are residents of Indiana but her brother John, who is a resident of Hope, Michigan, and sister, Martha, who is the wife of John Schafer, a resident of Hope, Michigan, and an agriculturist. Mr. Murphy was a native of Ohio and was a boy when his parents came to Howard county, Indiana. He was an agriculturist and educated only in the common schools. Politically he was a Prohibitionist and was a strong advocate of temperance. Both he and wife were ardent members of the Wesleyan Methodist church. Mrs. Murphy is a native of Ohio and was educated in the common schools. She now resides in Howard county, aged sixty-seven. Mr. Murphy is interred in North Grove Cemetery.

When Mr. and Mrs. Sproal began their married life they were \$1,100 in debt, but by persistency, industry and a determination to win, they accomplished the herculean task and today, in 1913, they have one of the valuable estates of the county. Mrs. Sproal has nobly filled her part as wife and mother. The homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Sproal is known as "Belle View Lodge."

The politics of Mr. Sproal is Democratic, and his church is the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal.

NOAH A. SANDIFUR. A native son of Miami county, carrying on agricultural operations in the township in which he was born, Noah Sandifur belongs to a family that was founded in this locality as early as 1846 and has since been prominently identified with the farming interests here. He was born not far from his present home, February 18, 1864, and is a son of Oliver H. and Sarah (Beaver) Sandifur.

Oliver H. Sandifur was born in Fayette county, Indiana, July 17, 1824, a son of Noah Sandifur and a grandson of Robert and Winifred (Bailey) Sandifur, of old North Carolina stock, the Sandifurs being of French ancestry and the Baileys of English. Robert Sandifur was a mechanic who lived in Pasquotank county, North Carolina, and when a young man was a Revolutionary soldier, in the cavalry service, participating in several battles. He was married in the Old North State and moved to South Carolina, and thence to Georgia, from whence he came to Indiana territory in 1807, settling in what is now Franklin county. He met an accidental death by drowning in the Whitewater river. His children were Martha, Noah and Peniah. He was reared in the faith of the Friends' Church, but in Indiana united with the Baptist Church. Noah Sandifur, the grandfather of Noah of this sketch, was born March 3, 1798, in South Carolina, and was seven or eight years of age when he accompanied his parents to this State. He attended the common school for nine months, but the greater part of his education was self-gained, and he was also widely known as a vocalist of talent. In September, 1821, he was married in Fayette county, Indiana, to Miss Mary Williams, a native of Virginia and a daughter of George and Nancy (Newhouse) Williams. Mr. Williams was also a pioneer farmer of Franklin county, whence he came probably as early as 1820, clearing a tract of land and establishing a comfortable home for his children, who



were, as far as is known, Mary, John, Isaac, Sarah and James, a daughter who married a Mr. Wilson, and another who married a Mr. Walker. George Williams died in middle life in Fayette county. Noah Sandifur passed away November 13, 1884. After his marriage, Noah Sandifur continued his residence in Fayette county, but sold the forty-acre tract which his father had entered. In 1830 he moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and resided there a year, and in the spring of 1832 purchased a quarter-section of land in Carroll county, which he cleared and brought under cultivation. Succeeding this he added forty acres to his possessions, and developed a handsome farm of 200 acres. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Oliver H., the father of Noah; Nelson W., a merchant and school teacher, who died aged about thirty-one years; Albert S.; Christina; Benjamin F.; and Mary E. Mr. and Mrs. Sandifur were members of the Methodist Church, in which he was a class leader and trustee. He passed his remaining days in Carroll county and died at the age of eighty-six years. He was a Whig in politics, voting for Henry Clay for president, and later became one of the early Republicans of his locality. He was a sturdy, honest and open-hearted pioneer, and assisted materially in the erection of churches of the Methodist faith for miles around his home.

Oliver H. Sandifur, father of Noah, was given an ordinary education in the pioneer schools, and was twenty-one years of age when he came to Miami county, in 1846. He here purchased a tract of 160 acres from a man who had indicated it only by cutting down a few trees, for which he paid the man five dollars. Here he built a log cabin, and when the land came into market, about 1847, he entered it. He proceeded to clear the land and make a farm, and by perseverance in much heavy work he at length had a good home, being greatly assisted by his industrious and faithful wife. By subsequent purchases, he added to this land until he owned 233 acres, on which he resided until his death, which occurred October 3, 1912, aged eighty-eight years, two months.

On August 11, 1853, Mr. Sandifur was married to Miss Sarah Beaver, at Miamitown, Indiana. She was born October 6, 1830, in Rockingham county, Virginia, a daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Miley) Beaver, both the Beavers and Mileys being of good German ancestry. His children were John, Malinda Michael, Matthias, Jacob and a daughter whose name is not remembered. Matthias died in Virginia. Jacob Beaver was married in Rockingham county, Virginia, and moved to Wayne county, Indiana, in 1831, settling in the wilderness on Martindale's Creek, three miles south of Hagerstown, and there cleared eighty acres of land. In the autumn of 1846 he moved to Miami county, this State, locating in Clay township, where he cleared the land and opened a farm. His children were Elizabeth, Henry, Belinda, Adams, Lewis, Catherine, Sarah, Jacob and Peter. In 1854 Mr. Beaver moved to Page county, Iowa, where he purchased a homestead but died in Kansas, at the venerable age of eighty-seven or eighty-eight years. He was a member of the United Brethren Church. During the War of 1812 he served with the American forces.

The children born to Oliver H. and Sarah Sandifur were as follows: Jacob A., born December 5, 1854, married March 29, 1876, Melvina F. Williamson; Mary E., born August 23, 1857, married Morton E. Haynes; Emma R., born November 18, 1860, married September 20, 1882, Rev. Leander E. Knox; Noah, born Feb. 18, 1864; Oliver U., born April 28, 1868; and William H., born August 5, 1869. Mr. Sandifur was a Republican in his political views, and from 1855 to 1859 served as justice of the peace. He was widely and favorably known throughout Deer Creek township, and during his long residence here built up a







BIRDSEYE VIEW OF "BROAD ACRES"  
RESIDENCE OF MRS. CAROLINE C. PHELPS

firmly-established reputation for honesty, industry and fidelity to every trust.

Noah Sandifur received his education in the common schools and was reared to agricultural pursuits in which he has been engaged all of his life. He remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-three years of age, at which time he located on his father-in-law's farm, and he now has forty acres in a high state of cultivation, on which he has erected a full set of modern buildings. He is a good practical farmer, at all times ready to embrace new ideas, and has made a decided success of his operations. A Republican in his political views, he has been chosen to fill the office of township trustee, in which he is at present serving his second term. He shows a commendable interest in all that affects the welfare of his community, ever being in favor of progress and advancement along all lines of endeavor. Mr. Sandifur is popular with the members of the local lodges of the Red Men and the Knights of Pythias, with which he is affiliated. With his family, he attends the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On December 23, 1886, Mr. Sandifur was married to Miss Ida Brown, daughter of James T. and Amanda (Elkins) Brown, and to this union there were born two children: Bertha G., born December 19, 1887, who married Coulter George; and Alva E., born February 17, 1890, single, and residing at home. Mrs. Sandifur died October 25, 1898, and on November 6, 1909, Mr. Sandifur was married to Carrie O. Duckwall, daughter of John and Lydia (Meyers) Duckwall. Mr. Duckwall was born at Montgomery county, Ohio, and in 1845 went to Cass county, Indiana, from whence he came to Miami county in 1849. He was a farmer, and an early sawmill and flourmill proprietor, but lost his mill by fire in 1857, entailing a loss of \$5,000. He married Lydia Meyers March 21, 1845, and died September 26, 1894, she following him to the grave February 2, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Sandifur have been the parents of two children: Verl D., born March 12, 1911; and Edna M., born July 16, 1912. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Sandifur is known as "Sunny Banks Stock Farm."

THOMAS W. PHELPS. For sixty years the Phelps family has been prominently identified with Clay township of Miami county. When the home was established in Indiana in 1853, the family were in the midst of pioneer conditions, there were no railroads, very few schools, the roads were rough trails and Peru was a village, and hardly a single one of the numerous conveyances and facilities of the modern electric age were then dreamed of in this portion of the middle west. Since then the Phelps family have not only been witnesses, but have been worthy parts in the growth and development which history records.

A representative of this prominent family in its third generation, Thomas W. Phelps was born on the old homestead in Clay township, January 1, 1879. He is a son of Andrew J. and Caroline C. (Wyrick) Phelps, and a grandson of Bissell Phelps, who founded the name in this county. The Phelps family came to Indiana, in 1853 from Lewis county, New York, where both the father and grandfather were born. A more complete family record will be found on other pages of this volume, under the name of Albert J. Phelps. Thomas W. Phelps grew up on the old homestead, received a substantial education in the local schools, and has been a practical farmer for several years. He and his wife reside at the old farmstead with his mother. The estate left by his father, comprised 300 acres of land, but it now contains 500 acres. It has not been divided among the heirs, and Thomas W. is active manager of a portion of this attractive and valuable old homestead.



Thomas W. Phelps was married December 5, 1912, to Lula Rhinebarger, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Warfeldt) Rhinebarger. Her father, a native of Germany, has lived in America since he was about ten years of age. His home for a number of years was in Miami county, but he now resides in Kokomo, and is employed by the Pan Handle Railroad Company. Previous to his removal to Kokomo, for a number of years Jacob Rhinebarger carried the mail from Bennett's Switch to Waupecong. Also at one time he served as township assessor, and his name is remembered as one of substantial worth and personal popularity in this county.

Mr. Phelps is a member of Castle Hall Lodge No. 362, K. of P., at Galveston, Ind., and the Improved Order of Red Men, Mongotha Tribe No. 267. The pretty estate of the Phelps is known as "Broad Acres."

**MARSHALL SMITH.** A lifelong residence in Grant county and many years of business activities within its borders has given to Marshall Smith a wide acquaintance and an enviable reputation in these parts. He was for years prominent in the lumber industry in this and surrounding counties, and when the scarcity of standing timber made that no longer an attractive business, he shrewdly turned his attention to the farming industry, in which he has since been prosperously engaged. He has been a man to whom fortune has ever accorded a due measure of success, and his position in the county has long been and still is, an enviable one.

Born in Grant county, November 15, 1858, Marshall Smith is the son of George W. and Caroline (Gilpen) Smith. The mother was a daughter of John Gilpen of Grant county, who lived to reach the age of ninety-two years. They became the parents of a large family of eleven children, the mother dying in 1880 and the father in 1903. They were farming people and passed their lives in the old familiar district in Grant county where their sons and daughters were born and reared.

Marshall Smith was about twenty years old when his mother died. He had lived at home up to that time, and his educational advantages had been of the very slightest, covering not more than a few months in all. In those early days the public school system was not the most efficient, and especially in their home community where school matters given but little consideration. Never of a studious nature as a boy, Mr. Smith admits today that he paid more attention in his school-days to devising new plans for annoying the school-master than he ever accorded to his duties, and there are many of his day who might well make the same confession if they would, even as the youth of today might often do.

In 1886 Mr. Smith left the Grant county home and came to Miami county, and in Xenia, now known as Converse, he engaged in the lumber business, buying and selling logs, and gradually increasing his operations until he was regarded as one of the big dealers of the community. After a time he went to Peru and there also began operating in timber, where he remained for about three years, and then went to Loree, in Clay township, Miami county, where he engaged in the sawmill business.—an industry that is never but one step distant from the logging business. When he first identified himself with the saw mill line he was associated with John Flowers, and together they continued prosperously until the mill was destroyed by fire. They were nothing daunted by that misfortune and together built up a newer and better plant than they had previously owned, and continued under the same firm name for about three years. Mr. Smith had by this time begun to see the end of the lumber business in his section of Indiana, and he began to buy up farm lands, beginning to farm some in connection with the mill work.

thus familiarizing himself with the agricultural industry, and he has since continued in active farming, after with the exception of a saw mill he operates in Southeast Missouri, having withdrawn from all other industries. He spent three years at Winamac, then came to Pipe Creek township, adjacent to Bunker Hill, and when he settled in Bunker Hill his first home was on the farm adjoining his present place. His home today is one of the finest and most modern to be found in the township, and is one of the attractive and showy places in the district.

Mr. Smith was married in 1883 to Miss Fannie Lawson, a daughter of Frank and Helena (Morro) Lawson. Mrs. Smith was one of four daughters, the others being: Minnie, married to George Smith; Maggie, the wife of Marion Retherford; and Lillie, who married Lon Smith (not related).

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith seven children have been born, concerning whom brief mention is made here as follows: Edward, the eldest, married May Liston, and they have two children; Josephine and Liston; Grover, Mabel, Shelia, Noble, Mary and Rose, are all unmarried, and share the fine home of their parents. The family are members of the United Brethren church in Bunker Hill, and all are highly esteemed and honored in the community which has long represented their home.

**JOHN L. MILLER.** The Miller homestead is an eighty-acre place in Deer Creek township. It represents the accumulated energies and the good management of John L. Miller, who is one of the ablest crop producers and most substantial citizen of Miami county. His career has much encouragement for young men who start without resources, except those contained in themselves. He was a renter for several years, prospered in every undertaking, and thriftily turned his surplus into more land, until he found himself independent and with better provision for the future of himself and family than most men have at the close of a long lifetime. John L. Miller was born in Deer Creek township of Miami county, October 5, 1867, and belongs to a family whose residence in this county goes back for about seventy years. His parents were Philip and Amanda (Wilson) Miller. The maternal grandfather was John Wilson. Philip Miller came to Indiana towards the end of the forties, and settled in Miami county years before the building of the first railroad, when all transportation was by canal or by wagon route, and his own toil contributed a part of the development which has made the modern Miami county possible. During the war he enlisted in an Indiana regiment, and went south to do service in defense of the union, being frequently engaged in battle, and on one occasion was wounded by a shot in the army.

John L. Miller grew to manhood on his father's place, early becoming familiar with all kinds of farm labor, and receiving his education in the district school near his home. In 1889 occurred his marriage to Miss Ida Poff, a daughter of Elias and Alice (Isler) Poff. Mr. and Mrs. Miller since their marriage have worked hard, and have taken pains to give their children the best possible advantages in the local schools, and also to provide them good influences in correct habits and morals at home. Their eight children are still within the home circle, and are named as follows: Claude F., Emma, Marie, Edna, Lula, Raymond, Russell and Tavola.

When Mr. Miller came into possession of his present place of eighty acres in Deer Creek township, it was quite well improved with buildings, but during his ownership he has made many other improvements, and it now ranks as a first class homestead. Mr. Miller is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men and the Masonic Order, being a post-



master, and having filled all the chairs in Crescent Lodge No. 280, A. F. & A. M. He and his family worship in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ALFRED GLASSBURN. The year 1848 was the date of the establishment of the Glassburn family in Miami county. That date is also memorable for the discovery of gold in California. Two generations have given the substance of their character and energy to Miami county since then and it is a name nowhere mentioned without commanding the respect due to worth and integrity. Substantial success has followed the efforts of Alfred Glassburn during a long and active career in Clay township.

Alfred Glassburn was born in Miami county, October 30, 1850, a son of Peter and Catherine (Bishop) Glassburn. Peter Glassburn, who was born in the old Dominion of Virginia came from that commonwealth to Indiana, at an early day, and for a time lived in Johnson county. In 1848, the family home was transferred from Johnson county to Miami county, and here he spent the rest of his days. In Johnson county, Peter Glassburn married Catherine Bishop, a daughter of Abraham Bishop and they became the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters. One daughter died in childhood. He and his good wife were identified with the Methodist church, and in that faith reared their family. When he came to Miami county, Peter Glassburn was a poor man. He took out land from the government in the year 1848, worked hard and exercised good judgment in the management of his affairs, and at the time of his death his estate comprised four hundred acres.

Alfred Glassburn grew to manhood on his father's farm, and has been a farmer all his life. The farm on which he now lives, and which comprises forty acres was formerly owned by his father-in-law, William Sims. Mr. Glassburn has improved this place and also a farm of eighty acres just north of it, and erected a good barn on each place. Having made a business of farming, Mr. Glassburn has applied his energies diligently, and while he would not claim to be scientific, he is in the best sense of the term practical, and his neighbors have a high regard for his judgment and example in matters of farm management.

On November 2, 1882, Alfred Glassburn and Nancy Sims were united in marriage, and to them have been given seven children, five of whom are living. The family record is as follows: Minnie, born June 24, 1883, and she married Lambert Waisner; Guy, born May 7, 1887, who married Cesta Spurgeon; Pearl, who died at the age of seventeen years; Rubie, who died at the age of two years; Eva, born August 18, 1891, married Omer Saul, an agriculturist; Ada, born March 12, 1894; and Clara, born May 5, 1901. Mrs. Glassburn's parents, William and Salome (Studebaker) Sims came to Indiana from Ohio, and settled in Miami county, where they reared a family of eight children. It was in 1850 that they took up their residence here, and they are still living and their present home is at Bunker Hill. William Sims has attained the good old age of four score, while his wife is in her seventy-seventh year.

Mr. and Mrs. Glassburn have two hundred and seventy acres all in Clay township, as fine land as can be found in the state. They also have the original parchment deed of their farm, signed by the president, which makes eight deeds of the kind found in the county.

SAMUEL M. SHARP. Forty years ago Mr. Sharp settled on a tract of raw land in Clay township, and beginning the pioneer work of transforming the barren acres into cultivated field made a homestead which

has ever since been identified with the Sharp name. That a farm should remain in one family for so long a time is an honor to the steady industry and citizenship of its owners, and the Sharp family have always been known for their quiet prosperity and solid integrity. Mr. Sharp now has an attractive well improved farm, which is the result of his own hard work and good management. He is descended from a worthy ancestry, and is himself continuing his hardy family stock through a large household of children.

Samuel M. Sharp was born November 11, 1837, in Franklin county, Ohio, a son of William, and a grandson of Abraham Sharp. Abraham Sharp was a Scotch-Irishman, who on coming to this country, first settled in Ohio. By trade he was a carpenter and millwright. A tool chest built by him for his own use while in Ohio is still preserved. At an early date Grandfather Sharp was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land where Peoria, Illinois, now stands, and which he traded off for a small sum. Formerly he was a resident of Franklin county, Ohio, where he married a Miss Howard of that county, who lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and two years, three months and seven days. The family comprised the following: William, father of Samuel M.; Elizabeth, wife of John Reager, of Ohio; George, who married Rose Avon Cramer; Nancy; Rachael, wife of Andrew Shanklin; Nathaniel, who married Mary Gregg.

Nathaniel Sharp was shot by three men, recruiting officers of the Union army, after an altercation, that event adding one more of the many similar tragedies enacted during the war and outside of the actual lines of battle. Subsequently one of those men was skinned alive by the Indians, and still later the other two were killed.

William Sharp married into the Teegardin family. Abraham, George and William Teegardin came to Ohio in 1811, and settled near Ashville, on land which their father from Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, had entered. The Teegardins were pioneers in Pickaway county, Ohio, were members of the Lutheran church and John Teegardin was a soldier in the War of 1812. William Sharp, after his marriage, settled on a farm in his native county of Franklin, prospered as a result of hard labor, and lived there until his death on June 30, 1845, at the age of thirty-seven years. His children were: Nancy, Peter, Samuel M., Aaron T., and Margaret.

Samuel M. Sharp was not yet eight years of age when his father died, and he was reared by his mother and uncle Aaron Teegardin, a farmer of Pickaway county, with whom he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. In his home county of Pickaway, he married Miss Isabel Bailey. She was born in Madison county, Ohio, but at the time of their marriage she was living in Pickaway county. Her parents were Reason W. and Anna (Hoyman) Bailey, the father from Maryland and the mother from Ohio, and subsequently they came to Indiana, settling in Clay township. Here Reason W. Bailey died in 1873 at the age of sixty-two years. He was a man of excellent qualities, and a member of the Lutheran church. His children in order of birth were: Eliza Ann, Mary, Mahala Isabel, Fame, Solomon L., Joseph L. Lewis B., Phoebe, and Ellis. Mr. Sharp worked by the day, and at the time of his marriage he had five dollars, which he gave to the preacher. He worked at wages for about eight years, and then settled on a rented farm in Pickaway county. On March 4, 1872, his home was transferred to Indiana, and since that year he has been a well known resident of Clay township, in Miami county. The date of his arrival in this county was March 4, 1872, the date of President Grant's second inauguration. Here he bought a hundred acres of land, and at once bent all his energies



in the direction of its improvement and cultivation. Subsequently his estate was increased by the purchase of an adjoining tract of a little more than twenty-eight acres, and today his fine farm with its attractive buildings and other improvements has few equals in this part of Miami county, and everything about the place indicates modern and progressive methods.

Of the family of Samuel M. Sharp and wife, the record reads that two died in infancy and three others after reaching adult age, names and dates being mentioned as follows: Mary M. is the widow of John Myers; William H., married Carrie Buchanan; Eliza M. is the wife of John B. Bowland; Jennie D. is the wife of Samuel Enders; Anna M., deceased, was the wife of Oliver Murden; Margaret is the wife of Andrew Kane; George L. married Laura Blaser, killed in a wreck in Colton, Colorado; Myrtle A., deceased, was the wife of Mr. George Abbott; Leon Claude, married Lulu Vernon; Edmon G., married Lulu Wininger; and Ruby N., is at home. Mr. Sharp and his family have long been identified with the United Brethren Church, and at one time he was a class leader in the church. Politically he has always been affiliated with the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Sharp have a number of souvenirs of ye olden days. He has a leathern belt in which he carried \$250.50 in gold and silver, when he started to Pike's Peak, but he was persuaded to give up the venture. At that time he thought he was a man of wealth. His dear old wife had been a hard toiler in her girlhood days. She has an ancient bureau that she had made by an old cabinet maker, costing her \$16, which she paid for in wages at \$1.50 per week. The old Seth Thomas clock, three-fourths of a century old is another relic and Mrs. Sharp has one of the old double coverlets, the yarn spun by her mother and also a small iron kettle over a century old, and a fancy painted pitcher as old. They are a pleasant, happy, contented and prosperous couple, and have reared a family of children which are an honor to their parents. Their pretty homestead is known as "Juniati Lodge," and it lies in the southern part of Miami county, Indiana.

CHARLES SHARP. A dealer in grain and live stock at McGrawsville, Mr. Sharp has for the past ten years been closely identified with those activities which constitute the civic and business life of a community, and which in the aggregate have made Miami county one of the most progressive counties of Indiana. Mr. Sharp may well be termed one of the builders of his present home town of McGrawsville, since he has established and maintained the chief mercantile and market facilities, is a man whose leadership and influence dominate local affairs, and during a residence there of ten years, Mr. Sharp has given his energies to every phase of improvement in this little center of population and business.

Charles Sharp was born in Owen township, Clinton county, Indiana, April 21, 1858, a son of Mahon and Elizabeth (Krammes) Sharp. His father was a native of Germany. Charles Sharp grew up in Clinton county, was a farmer boy, and had the environment and the experience of country life in that section of Indiana forty or fifty years ago, and from very modest beginnings was able to extend his interests and enterprise until eventually he became one of the leading business men and farmers in Clinton county. Mr. Sharp still owns two hundred acres of land, and has it all well improved, with buildings and up to the high standards of Clinton county agriculture. In that county a grain elevator was also owned by him, and he conducted an extensive business in the buying and selling of grain and cattle. His operations were of such an extent that he was in touch with many of the leading farmers



SILVER WEDDING GROUP OF MR. AND MRS CHARLES SHARP, 1905





of Clinton county, and had a wide acquaintance there. About ten years ago Mr. Sharp sold his elevator in Owen township, and came to McGrawsville, where he has since been engaged in the same line of business. The original elevator at McGrawsville had been burned to the ground, about two years before Mr. Sharp located there, and it was due to his initiative and energy that the business was resumed. On coming there he at once hired every man in the neighborhood who could work, and they erected a fine large modern elevator, which has since been conducted under his name. Mr. Sharp also owns a general store, three houses and a blacksmith shop equipped with full machinery. His chief business is dealing in live stock, and he has made a market known and appreciated by all the farmers in this section of the state. A public spirited, progressive man, he has been an influential factor for material benefit to McGrawsville.

On November 21, 1880, Charles Sharp and Pleasy B. Revis were united in marriage. Mrs. Sharp is a daughter of Enoch and Lucy (Daniels) Revis, both now deceased. Her father died January 7, 1898, at the age of ninety years, and her mother on May 5, 1903.

Enoch Revis was of English birth, and his wife's people were Virginians. To the marriage of Mr. Sharp and wife were born seven children, whose names and dates of birth are mentioned as follows: Clara, born March 22, 1882, the wife of C. F. Gumm; Daisy Ann, born in 1884; Charles Willis, born November 27, 1886; Dora Ellen, born February 15, 1889, who married Charles Hodsom; Laura, born June 23, 1892; Maud, born May 15, 1895; and Russell, born November 9, 1900.

Mrs. Sharp is a most estimable sociable lady and her pretty modern home is her paradise. They have reared their children to lives of usefulness, and have given them the advantages of excellent school and home training. Mr. Sharp is one of the most enterprising and busy men in southern Miami county. He not only has the large and expensive elevator at McGrawsville, where he handles all kinds of seed and grain, but he is an extensive dealer in live stock, coal, all kinds of common and building lumber, lime, cement, brick and tile, and is of that jovial nature which makes him universally liked by the agricultural community. His beautiful residence, as well as his other properties and newly equipped blacksmith shop are to be admired, and all have been erected by himself or caused to be.

**E. A. ELLIS.** One of the flourishing business concerns of Amboy is that of the E. A. Ellis Furniture Company, the proprietor of which, E. A. Ellis, is known as one of the able and progressive men of the city. Although he has been a resident of Amboy only since 1912, he has so identified himself with the city's commercial, civic and social interests, that he has already made his influence felt and gained an acknowledged standing and a wide circle of appreciative friends. He belongs to an old pioneer family of Wabash county, Indiana, where he was born in a log cabin, September 17, 1855, a son of John and Caroline (Snyder) Ellis. His paternal grandfather was Elihu Ellis, and on the maternal side his grandfather was John Snyder.

John Ellis was one of the earliest settlers of Wabash county, where as a youth he was engaged in cutting wood for the Indians that still made their homes in that section. As a young man he purchased a farm which was covered with timber, and on which he continued to reside all of his life, developing a good property and being known as one of his community's substantial and highly respected citizens. His death occurred in 1893, while his widow still survives and lives in Wabash county.



E. A. Ellis secured his education in the public schools of his native county, and was there reared to agricultural pursuits. He continued to reside on the home farm until his marriage, in 1875, immediately after which he came to Miami county, where he located on a farm in Jackson township, and there carried on operations for a number of years. Succeeding this he secured a property in Butler township, where he lived for ten years, but in 1912 retired from agricultural pursuits and came to Amboy. On May 22nd of that year he became the owner, through purchase, of his present business, which had been established for some ten years, and the name of which he changed to its present style, the E. A. Ellis Furniture Company. An able and energetic business man, he has succeeded in building up a greatly increased trade, giving his personal attention to every detail of the enterprise. Among his associates he bears the reputation of being a man of the strictest integrity and high principles, while added patronage has been drawn to his establishment by an attractive and well-selected stock of the most up-to-date goods to be found in his line.

Mr. Ellis was married in 1875 to Miss Amanda Draper, daughter of Elijah and Emily (Erick) Draper, and seven children have been born to this union, namely: Romerty, who became the wife of James Moore; Emily Caroline, who married Norman Brag; Grace Jane, who became the wife of Lon Snyder; Thompson, who married Lettie Stout; Goldie Fay, who is single and resides with her parents; Lelah, who married Jessie Bowland; and Leon, who is single and his father's assistant in the furniture business. Mr. Ellis is a valued member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, where he has numerous warm friends. For a number of years he has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has acted in the capacity of trustee of the parsonage in Butler township. Progressive in all matters, he has been an earnest and hard-working supporter of movements which he has believed will advance the welfare of his adopted city and its people, and has thus fairly earned his reputation for representative public-spirited citizenship.

**J. J. SMITH.** A prominent citizen of Perry township, whose recollections and experience cover the greater part of Miami county's history, Mr. J. J. Smith is one of the oldest native sons of that township, and represents a family which established its home in Miami county during the log cabin day.

His birth occurred in Perry township, August 8, 1844, and he was a son of George Michael and Catherine (Emerick) Smith. Both parents were natives of Germany, born near the river Rhine, and married in Portage county, Ohio. From Ohio they came to Perry township in Miami county, and their first shelter in the wilderness of that section was a small cabin in the midst of the heavy timbers. The father with the aid of his older boys worked for the clearing of the land, cut down a vast quantity of trees that would now represent a small fortune in lumber, and gradually got one acre after another under the plow. The elder Smith lived to be eighty-four years of age, and when he first settled in Miami county the Indians, wolves and deer, and other wild animals were extremely plentiful. Mr. J. J. Smith himself has seen as many as twenty deer in one drove within the limits of this county. The family had lived in the first cabin for some time, and then the father built a house of hewed logs, and that in time was supplanted by a frame house, a structure which is still standing, and occupied by the youngest son.

Mr. J. J. Smith when a small boy began to give his work to his father

on the farm, and at such times as he could be spared he attended the district schools of the neighborhood. His education was necessarily limited, but he has a generous fund of practical sense and has an industry and judgment which have enabled him to prosper and get to the front as a man of substantial worth. In 1876 Mr. Smith married Miss Sarah E. Bowman, a daughter of Henry and Mary Ann (Onstadt) Bowman. Her grandfather, Andy Onstadt, had the distinction of fixing upon the name for Perry township, which owes its designation to that old settler. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Smith began housekeeping on their present farm, which they bought, containing one hundred and twenty acres. A huge log house stood on the farm, and that was where they lived for the first seventeen years. With increasing means they were then able to build their commodious brick home which is now one of the best farm dwellings in the countryside, and is a large and modern residence. All the buildings and improvements have been instituted by Mr. Smith, and he has brought about a great deal of fencing and ditching, so that the farm is worth a great deal more than what he paid for it. Mr. Smith has been honored by his fellow citizens with the office of supervisor of Perry township, and his success in material things has well entitled him to the honors of civic position. Mr. Smith has some of the pieces of the old-time pioneer furniture, such as were used during his early boyhood and by his parents when they first settled in Miami county.

Mr. Smith has two children: Asa, married Dora Baker, daughter of Simon and Sarah (Fisher) Baker. They have two children: Albert Baker Smith, born March 13, 1897; and Sarah Lucile Smith, born October 15, 1911. Simon Baker came to Miami county shortly after the Civil war, settling in Perry township, and was married in this county. Mrs. Asa Smith was born in Miami county. Her paternal grandfather was Jake Baker, and her maternal grandfather was John Fisher. Mrs. Smith's father was a member of the Lutheran church, and he died on April 4, 1899. George Henry Smith, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Smith married Catherine Crug, but they have no children.

**THOMAS C. OVERMAN.** A worthy representative of an old and honored Miami county family is found in the person of Thomas C. Overman, of Amboy, who bears an unsullied reputation in the trade circles of his native town. His integrity and honesty have gained him the unqualified regard of all with whom he has come into contact, and in spite of his large business interests he has found time to faithfully discharge every duty of citizenship and to lend active support and co-operation to every movement for the public good. Mr. Overman was born June 10, 1859, in Amboy, and is a son of John F. and Rebecca Jane (Jordan) Overman, and a grandson of Cornelius Overman and Thomas Jordan.

John F. Overman was one of the pioneers of Miami township and one of those sturdy citizens who paved the way for the civilization of later years. He was closely identified with its development and industries since the days when it was naught but a wilderness, covered with heavy timber, through which wild beasts prowled and where fever and ague and malaria added to the hardships and discomforts of living. With a brave heart and the hardihood of the true frontiersman, he suffered all manners of privations and endured an amount of hard labor that the present generation would find it hard to imagine, and now has the comfort of looking back over a well-spent life, filled with kindly deeds and usefulness to his fellow men. John F. Overman belonged to an old Quaker family that had been converted to the faith in Germany under William Penn, and was reared in the teachings of the church in



his native Wayne county, Indiana. In 1852 he left the parental homestead, near Richmond, and came to Miami county, settling at what is now Amboy, where he owned forty acres of land. Here he was married in the Quaker Church, under the old Quaker ceremony of that day. A skilled marksman and hunter, in the early days he kept the family larder well supplied with game, and shot more than one deer where the flourishing industries of Amboy now have their site. He continued to cultivate his little farm which he had entered from the Government, subsequently became the proprietor of the first dry goods store in Amboy, erected an elevator, and when the first railroad train came through, in 1867, shipped the first wheat ever sent from this place. During the early days the business of the elevator was necessarily small, as the country was covered with such a heavy growth of timber that it was almost impossible to raise grain. As the years passed, Mr. Overman identified himself with various enterprises which served to enhance the importance of his adopted place, and continued to be one of the town's leading citizens until his retirement, when he removed to Nashville, Tennessee, that city at present being his home. He is now seventy-four years of age. His first wife, the mother of Thomas C. Overman, died March 12, 1865, and he was later married to Miss Lydia Sheridan, who was related to the great Union general, Philip Sheridan.

Thomas C. Overman received a good education in the schools of Amboy, and as a youth associated himself with his father in business. For a number of years he was owner of the grain elevator, but since disposing thereof has devoted the greater part of his attention to real estate operations, in connection with which he has erected more residences in Amboy than any other man. He has been identified with various other enterprises, is vice-president of the Miami County Bank, and has admirably filled the place in business circles left vacant by his father. Like the elder man, he has interested himself in everything that pertains to the welfare of his community, and has taken a prominent part in public affairs, at the present time being a member of the advisory board of trustees. For the past twenty-five years he has been a member of the Knights of Pythias, Castle Hall Lodge, at Converse, Indiana, and he also holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Amboy, Indiana, being popular with the members of these lodges, as he is with his fellows in all walks of life. He holds a birthright in the Quaker Church, and consistently attends its services and liberally supports its movements. He has maintained the family reputation for honesty and upright living, and no man in Amboy holds a more firmly established place in general public esteem.

Mr. Overman was married January 1, 1883, at Amboy, to Maggie W. Elleman, daughter of Joseph and Eunice (Wright) Elleman, and to this union there have been born four children, as follows: Zoe M., born December 25, 1883, who married Daniel Kerr, and has three children,—Thomas W., Margaret and Martha Zoe who died August 5, 1913. Mary Elsie, born November 18, 1886, married Gifford Douglas, and has two children,—Elaine and Esther. Madge E., born July 18, 1888, resides with her parents; and J. T. Don, born August 23, 1890, married Miss Esther Coppoc. Mrs. Overman was born near Marshalltown, Iowa, May 5, 1863, the second of four children, two sons and two daughters. Three are living. Her father was a native of Ohio. He was a Republican and voted for Fremont. Both father and mother were birthright Quakers. Mrs. Overman was educated in the common schools and The Academy. She is an affable lady and their beautiful home is the abode of hospitality.

CASWELL H. LANDRUM. The owner and occupant of a well-cultivated farm of seventy-two and one-half acres, lying in Harrison township,







MR. AND MRS. DAVID STITT'S FAMILY GROUP

C. H. Landrum has long been accounted one of the prominent citizens of Miami county, and his life record is therefore, deserving of a place in this volume. In agriculture, as in all other lines of endeavor, there is constant change and progress, and those who would reap a full measure of success from their labor must keep fully abreast of these advancements, in order that they be not passed by their more alert fellows. It is to such men as Mr. Landrum that the county's agricultural supremacy is due, for he has been ever ready to encourage new innovations and to support progressive movements. Mr. Landrum is a native of Miami county, born in Harrison township, May 25, 1867, a son of David and Louise (Howes) Landrum.

David Landrum was a son of Thomas Landrum, and it is thought that he was born in Carroll county, Indiana, from whence he migrated to Miami county about 1850. He was married in this county, where the maternal grandfather of C. H. Landrum, Abel Howes, had been a very early settler. David Landrum was engaged in agricultural pursuits at the time of the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, when he enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving with that organization until the close of hostilities. After a brave and faithful service he returned to the peaceful pursuits of private life, and continued to carry on farming and stock raising until meeting an accidental death in 1901.

C. H. Landrum was only four years old when his mother died, and he was reared on the farm of his grandfather Howes. His education was secured in the district schools of Butler township, and like other Hoosier lads divided his boyhood between work on the home farm in the spring, summer and fall, and study in school during the short winter terms. He remained with his grandmother after attaining his majority, and when he was married continued to make that place his home, but in 1907 came to his present property, which he had purchased some two years before. Here he now has seventy-two and one-half acres in a high state of cultivation, yielding him excellent returns in the way of bounteous crops for his intelligent and well-directed labor. The handsome, substantial buildings found on this property have all been erected by Mr. Landrum, who has also made the various modern improvements here. He is a practical farmer, but has been always willing to experiment with new ideas and methods, and is a firm believer in the use of modern machinery. Among his neighbors and business associates he bears a reputation for integrity and industry, and his general popularity is widespread.

In 1888 Mr. Landrum was united in marriage with Miss Florence Ivah Smith, daughter of Jasper and Susan (Plotner) Smith, and to this union there have been born three children, namely: Gilbert E., born August 31, 1890, single and assisting his father in the management of the home farm; and Harold E., born May 25, 1903, and Helen V., born October 4, 1907, who are attending school. One child, Paul, died at birth. With his family, Mr. Landrum attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he is at this time serving as trustee and as superintendent of the Sunday school. Essentially an agriculturist, he has been too busily engaged with his farming operations to think of entering the political arena as a seeker for personal preferment, but he has supported all movements making for good government and good citizenship, and Harrison township has no more public-spirited man.

DAVID STITT. In the person of this venerable pioneer farmer, one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of Harrison township, who was brought here in infancy by his pioneer parents, and whose memory



reaches back to the time when the family home was a cabin in the woods, we have a sample of a worthy race of people to whom the country is largely indebted for its development and progress. The life span of David Stitt, of threescore years and ten, covers not only a frontier experience, but also it includes the Civil war period, and service in the Union army, and the peaceful prosperous days which have followed. To such men as David Stitt Indiana owes much. They are the class who toiled and worked, cleared, grubbed and ditched, through the courses of nature in the way of swamps and dense forests, and kept up the fight until the beautiful and highly cultivated landscape of farms now greets the eye of the traveler on every hand. Such men seldom figure in public life, their names are seldom mentioned in the papers, but they live quiet and unpretentious lives, and it is by their work and self sacrifice that a community gains strength and a state becomes great.

David Stitt was born seventy years ago in Athens county, of the Buckeye State of Ohio, March 22, 1843, a son of Eli and Achsah (Thorp) Stitt. His grandfather was named Samuel Stitt. In the autumn of 1845 the Stitt family left their home in Athens county, Ohio, and came across the country in pioneer style to Miami county, Indiana. Their arrival in this county was on the fourth day of October. David was then about two and a half years of age. The Stitt family is the oldest of the settlers of Harrison township still represented in active residence there. Their settlement was made about a mile from the farm now occupied by David, and on that original estate the father remained until death. At that time the Pottowattomies and Miamis were still here, and the highways were nothing more than mere trails through the woods. Eli Stitt built a one-room cabin and equipped it with a mud fire-place and a stick chimney, and that first winter their provisions consisted chiefly of game, which was plentiful in the woods about them. Eli Stitt had entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, and a number of years were spent in the labor of clearing and cultivating it. His life was one of fullness in years, and when he passed away in 1901, he had completed eighty-three years of human existence. His wife, Achsah died at the age of 59 years.

David Stitt spent his youthful days in assisting his father with the work of clearing and cultivation, and during the winter months studied books and figures, in the nearby log school house. The school term covered about sixty days, and young Stitt was in attendance up to the time he was nineteen years of age. His wife's father, Jesse Lee, was the first school teacher in Harrison township.

When the Civil war broke out, Mr. Stitt was still in his teens. He soon showed the mettle of which he was made, by joining the Union ranks and going to the field of action. It was as a member of Company I in the Ninety-ninth Indiana Infantry that he entered the army in 1862, and continued with his command until 1865, when he returned home with an honorable discharge and with a record of soldier-ship which will long be a matter of pride to his descendants. While he was many times in the smoke and fire of battle, he was only once wounded, on the eighteenth of August, 1864, at Atlanta, Ga.

He participated in many hard fought battles including the Siege of Atlanta, Siege of Vicksburg and the Battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, was with Gen. Tecumseh Sherman on the famous march to the sea, then up through the Carolinas and on to Washington, D. C., where he took part in the grand review, the greatest of military pageants known in American history.

He was one of the ragged, unkempt, almost barefooted soldiers who marched down Pennsylvania avenue before the review stand of the

president. He received his honorable discharge in June, 1865, and returned to his Indiana home to again mingle with his countrymen in the peaceful vocation of a farmer.

Mr. Stitt returned to Harrison township, and has been engaged in farming here ever since, for nearly half a century. The first farm he settled on was about one mile west of his present place. He removed from the one to the other in 1873, and here for forty years has lived and labored. Most of the land which he owns was at the time of purchase heavily timbered. He has done much clearing in his day, and has in various ways improved his property and added to the permanent wealth of the locality. His present residence stood on the farm when he came here, but he moved and remodeled it, and also erected a fine new barn.

On October 31, 1867, David Stitt married Miss Harriet A. Lee, a daughter of Jesse and Nancy (Bond) Lee. Her grandfathers were Dennis Lee and William Bond. The Lees came to Indiana from Ohio.

Mrs. Stitt was born in Miami county, Indiana, August 2, 1848, the fourth in a family of six children, two sons and four daughters, born to her parents, Jesse and Nancy (Bond) Lee and five are living, four being residents of Miami county. Her brother John M. Lee, is a resident of Grant county, Indiana, and a commercial traveler for the James Kirk Soap Co. of Chicago.

Jesse Lee was a native of Chicago, born in Hancock county in 1820, and he died 1906. By vocation he was an agriculturist. He was educated in the common schools and taught school in the early years of his life. Politically he was a Republican and voted for Gen. John C. Fremont, the first Republican nominee for president. Mrs. Lee was a native of "The Old Dominion State" of Virginia, but was reared mostly in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Lee died in Jackson township and are there interred. Mrs. Stitt has received more than an ordinary education, having been a student in the city schools of Peru, in addition to those of the common schools.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stitt were born five children, as follows: Stella F., born March 8, 1869, and now the wife of Abel Landrum; Leonard G., born November 5, 1873, who married Pearl Jones; Bessie, born September 21, 1880, who became the wife of Elmer G. Lee; Vernon, born December 29, 1886, and died January 31, 1888; and Jesse T., born January 20, 1890. All the children received good practical educations.

Mr. Stitt cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and has ever since given his support to the Republican party. He has served officially in various local offices, such as township trustee and township assessor, and his name also appears in the official records of the county as a member of the board of county commissioners. He is a member in good standing of Harrison Masonic Lodge No. 660, and keeps up his old army associations with the Grand Army Post at Peru, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Stitt have in their possession as heirlooms four of the old parchment deeds executed under the hand and seal of President Zachary Taylor, one bearing the date of April 10, 1849, and three bearing the date of May 1, 1848. This makes seven deeds of the kind found in Miami county.

FREDERICK GERHART. Manifesting the qualities of good citizenship in all his relations with the community, a man of quiet but effective enterprise, successful as a farmer, a good husband and kind neighbor, Fred Gerhart is an excellent type of the prosperous citizen and sturdy worker in Harrison township, where he has had his home since birth. As his name suggests, he is of German lineage, and possesses the German spirit, characteristic of the better class of German stock.



Frederick Gerhart was born on his father's farm in the township of Harrison, February 22, 1857, a son of Michael and Margaret (Denser) Gerhart. The parents were born, reared and married in Germany, and on coming to America first settled in Holmes county, Ohio. From there, late in the forties, they placed their possessions in a wagon and with team drove overland across the Ohio-Indiana boundary, and finally arrived in Harrison township of Miami county, locating a half a mile north of the Howard county line. There the father lived and quietly prospered until he attained a ripe age, dying with the respect of all who knew him.

Frederick Gerhart remained at the parental home until he was twenty-two years of age. The following five years were spent in work on farms for the neighbors, and it was in that way that he got his start in the world. When he was married in 1885, he paid part of the purchase price and acquired the present eighty acres which is the attractive and valuable estate owned by him. At that time there was an old cabin on the place and it served him and his family as a home for seven years. His present residence and all the other buildings on the farm were erected under his management and supervision and the equipment and improvement indicate the best class of rural farmsteads in Miami county.

On February 7, 1885, Mr. Gerhart married Miss Eliza Dick, who is also of German parentage. Her father and mother, Jacob and Frances (Brandt) Dick, were married in Ohio, and became early settlers in Howard county, Indiana, where they lived until death. In the Dick family were six children, four daughters and two sons. To Mr. and Mrs. Gerhart have been born six children, namely: Grace Ada, born November 23, 1885, and died March 4, 1887; Lesta M., a daughter born January 15, 1888, the wife of Clarence Graham; Orla W., born November 16, 1891; Shirley Ray, born December 31, 1894; Fannie R., born July 28, 1897; and Mildred L., born February 2, 1901.

Mr. Gerhart for a number of years, in addition to his private business affairs, has maintained an interest in local matters, and at this writing is serving as a member of the township advisory board. His church is the Christian denomination in which he is a trustee. His social relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 664, at Amboy, Indiana. The pretty Gerhart homestead is known as "Sunny Lawn Grange."

**WILSON YARIAN.** Prominent among the old established residents of Miami county and foremost among those who have given largely of their energies and abilities to further the development and growth of the communities which represented their homes, Wilson Yarian stands pre-eminent and especially worthy of mention in a work of the nature of which this historical and biographical publication partakes. He has wrought long and accomplished much in the chosen field of his activities, and is well known for one of the most successful men of the town today.

Born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on August 10, 1864, Wilson Yarian is the son of Andrew Yarian and the grandson of George Yarian. His mother was Nancy Wilhelm, the daughter of Jonathan Wilhelm, and the family came to Miami county in 1865, when the subject was a mere infant, and it is thus that he has known no other home in his lifetime. The Yarian family settled on a farm in Perry township, a ninety acre tract, on which not more than thirty acres was in condition to be cultivated, and there they bent their every energy to the making of a home worthy of the name of this semi-wilderness place. The woods were

dense,—indeed, a veritable forest covered some sixty acres of the place, and deer and other animals were abundant in its shelter. To the subject, in the years when he was coming to young manhood, fell a goodly share of the work of reclaiming this forest land to a state of productiveness, and with his father he gave many a racking hour to the work in hand. They made an excellent showing on the place, however, and each succeeding year added something appreciably to the value and appearance of the home. New buildings gradually gave place to the older and more primitive dwelling and barns, and each year the producing acreage of the farm was increased, so that as time passed, the farm yielded more and more abundantly. In 1872 the mother died and the father has continued to live on the old home, and he is still enjoying the labors of his earlier years at the advanced age of eighty.

In 1890, when Wilson Yarian was twenty-six years old, he left the home place and began to devote himself to an independent career. He married in October of that year and settled on his present home, which he purchased at the time. Many improvements have been wrought in the place since he came into possession thereof, and the old house today is used for a shop, while a fine modern dwelling has come into use in its place. This farm has an acreage of seventy-nine acres, and it has undergone a decided change of face since he became its owner. It was new land in 1890, and while much work had been done to reduce it to a state of productiveness, the stumps still stood thickly and uninviting in appearance over the entire place. Today the fields stand forth as smooth and fair as any of the oldest farms of the county. Another farm of eighty acres, which he rents, yields him a yearly income, and in addition to these, he operates the farm of his father, so that he is one of the busy men of the town. Mr. Yarian carries on stock raising to a considerable extent, and has reached a place of no little prominence in the agricultural circles of the town and county.

Concerning the immediate family of Mr. Yarian, it may be stated here that he married Sarah Ellen Fouts, on October 29, 1890. She is a daughter of David Fouts and his wife, Mary Jan Dick, who came to Miami county in an early date. They were long residents of Richland township in this county, and both of them passed their remaining days in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Yarian. To Mr. and Mrs. Yarian were born nine children: Nettie; Marie; David A.; Herman Paul; Mary Ruth; George Oren; Maud Etta; Clara Elmita; Roy Angel and Claude Luther.

Mr. Yarian and his family are members of the German Lutheran church, as is also the elder Yarian, who is a man of German ancestry, though born in Ohio. The mother of the subject also has lifelong membership in that church, and was one of the devout members of the church body.

Mr. Yarian was an active member of the Horse Thief Detective Association for many years, but he has no fraternal relations of whatever nature. He is one of the staunch and true citizens of the community, and has a wide circle of friends therein, who share his good will and confidence.

JACOB FRANKLIN TETER. For many years one of the substantial men of Perry township, of Miami county, has been Jacob Franklin Teter, a native of both the township and the county, he has been a farmer ever since he was old enough to follow the plow. He lives on the farm where he was born, and being bound to this section by so many ties, he is enthusiastic over its growth and prosperity, and always ready to aid in the advancement of the community in any way within his power.



Jacob Franklin Teter was born in Perry township, Miami county, on the eighteenth of March, 1869, the son of Daniel Teter. Daniel Teter was born in the state of Ohio, January 6, 1833, and on January 1, 1862, married Mary Grogg, who was born in Miami county, February 10, 1844. Mary Teter was a member of the Evangelical church. Daniel Teter's parents died when he was four years old and he was then taken charge of by his aunt, Mary Brown, with whom he lived until he was old enough to go out and earn his own living. His first work was for a man named John Franz, with whom he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. He had saved his money during this period, and managed it so carefully that he was able to own a large sawmill at Silver Lake, Indiana. For several years he operated that mill, and then decided to go to farming. On forty acres of land at Silver Lake, which he had bought, he began farming operations, but remained there only two years, and then settled on the farm which his son now owns. He first bought one hundred and seventy-eight acres, all of which, with the exception of fifteen acres, was in timber. There was an old log cabin on the place, and for a number of years he lived in that house. His son, Jacob Franklin Teter, having been born there. In 1849, Grandfather Grogg had erected the barn which now stands on the place, and later Daniel Teter built the house. Daniel Teter was a member of the Evangelical church and a prominent citizen in Miami county. His death occurred on the tenth of May, 1909, at Akron, Indiana.

Jacob F. Teter grew up in Perry township and received his education in the district schools of this section. He was, however, handicapped, by poor eyesight, and on this account was forced to give up his studies at the age of fourteen. After that he devoted himself to the work of the farm. Several years previous to his father's death he bought the home place of one hundred and forty-eight acres and has lived there ever since. Both the house and barn have been improved and changed, and there are other improvements which make the farm one of the most attractive and valuable in the community. Mr. Teter, like his father, is a member of the Evangelical church, and has been a steward and president of the Missionary Society, also taking a keen interest in church affairs.

On December 24, 1892, Mr. Teter married Miss Susie Long, who was born October 13, 1873, a daughter of John Long. The latter came to Miami county, Indiana, at a very early date and located in Perry township. John Long was married in Marshall county, Indiana, March 6, 1862, to Hannah Shafer, but moved immediately to Miami county where he first settled on a farm of ninety-five acres, all of it timber land. The buildings were all of logs, and conditions were exceedingly primitive. John Long died on the sixth of July, 1900, and his wife died September 23, 1883. The latter was a member of the Church of God. Mrs. Teter grew up and received her education in Perry township, where she has remained all her life. Early she gave her heart to God and united with the Evangelical Association at the Emmanuel Class, and became an active and willing worker in the church. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Franklin Teter, as follows: Cluster Doyel, who was born on the eighth of July, 1895; Dale Vance, born October 2, 1896; and died March 16, 1897; Roy Edward, who was born on February 15, 1901; Earl Luther, who was born on October 15, 1904; Nora Esther, who was born on the second of May, 1906; and Howard Dean, who was born on the twenty-eighth of September, 1907.

AMOS A. KEPNER. Jackson township can boast of no more public-spirited citizen than Amos Kepner, who since 1897 has been engaged







WEDDING GROUP OF MR. AND MRS. WM. F. BENDY'S  
DAUGHTER, PEARL



in farming in this vicinity, and whose influence has proven a material factor in the securing of good roads and other improvements. Mr. Kepner has contributed his full share of labor to the development of this part of Miami county, for his present handsome farm was uncultivated and valueless to the community when he first settled here and his exertions have resulted in making the land a credit to his industry and to the township. He is a native of the Hoosier State, and was born July 9, 1858, in Carroll county, Indiana, a son of Samuel and Catherine (Long) Kepner, and a grandson of Jacob Kepner.

Mr. Kepner received his education in the country schools, and early began his agricultural career. As a youth he accompanied his parents to Howard county, where he resided until 1897, when he brought his wife and children to Miami county. He purchased his present land, on which the only structure was a four-room cottage, and here commenced at once to make improvements. As the years have passed, he has added to his dwelling, remodeled it several times, and it is now one of the most attractive homes to be found in the township. Other substantial buildings have been built, the land has been well tiled, ditched and drained, and the one hundred-acre property is now under a state of cultivation that insures large and profitable crops. He is a believer in the use of modern machinery, and is ever ready to give a trial to any reasonable method which his judgment tells him may work out for better results. He has devoted the greater part of his time to general farming, but has also met with a reasonable degree of success in the raising of stock.

On December 20, 1885, Mr. Kepner was married to Miss Virginia Bell Knox, whose father, Jesse Knox, was formerly a member of the board of county commissioners of Miami county, and whose brother, John Knox, is at present the trustee of Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Kepner have had nine children, as follows: Ofa, Guy, Ray, Roxie, Loren, Paul, Dorothy, Cecil and Ruthie, the last-named of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Kepner is a valued member of the Horse Thief Association. A friend of progress along all lines, he has been an untiring worker in the cause of good roads, and has made a number of personal canvasses in this connection. His wide circle of friends gives evidence of his popularity.

WM. F. BUNDY came to Miami county when two years of age, and his entire career has been passed within the limits of Jackson township. He has resided on his present valuable farm for more than a quarter of a century, and during this time his steadfast integrity and constant honesty have given him a firmly-established position in the confidence of his fellow-citizens, and the success which he has made of his personal affairs makes him deserving of a place among the representative men of his section. Mr. Bundy was born in Rush county, Indiana, May 15, 1857, and is a son of John and Hannah (Symons) Bundy. He is a grandson of Elias Bundy and Bethuel Symons.

John Bundy brought his family to Jackson township in 1859, and here was for a number of years engaged in farming, although at the present time he is living in Kansas. He and his wife became the parents of eleven children, as follows: Thomas E., who married Lizzie Marshall; Sarah J., who married John Peters; Bethuel, who married Lydia Peters; Elias, who married Narcissa Luther; Vietta, who became the wife of George Blaser; Walter A.; Elmina, who married Alfred Vesper; Joseph; Arthur J.; Maude, who married John Brockaway; and Wm. F.

Wm. F. Bundy received his education in the district schools, and on attaining young manhood engaged in farming on his own account. He came to his present property in 1888 and has since continued to make



his home here, now having 158½ acres under a high state of cultivation. All of the present buildings were erected by him, and he has made numerous improvements of a modern character, and as the years have passed he has added to his stock and his equipment. Progressive methods have found in him a staunch supporter, and his success may be said to be due to the fact that he has worked industriously, perseveringly and intelligently. His reputation is that of a capable man of affairs, able to compete successfully with his fellows, a loyal friend, and a citizen whose public spirit has been tried and not found wanting.

On March 23, 1887, Mr. Bundy was married to Miss Margaret J. Lamb, daughter of Edmund and Johannah (Elliott) Lamb and granddaughter of Isaac Elliott. Mrs. Bundy's parents had three children: Margaret J.; Rachel E., who died at the age of 18 years; and Sarah Catherine, who became the wife of Henry Carter. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Lamb married Martha Symons, and upon her death became the husband of Sarah Hodson, by whom he had one daughter, Cynthia. Mr. Lamb came to Miami county in 1854 from a farm near Marion, and first settled in Harrison township, where he resided until his death in 1893. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bundy: Hannah Pearl, who married Oliver Weesner; Irvin Neal, died aged 7; Chester E., who is attending Earlham College; and Mary F., a student in the Amboy high school in third year. Mr. and Mrs. Bundy are faithful members of the Society of Friends, where she has been clerk of the monthly meeting and is at present acting in the capacity of elder. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Bundy is known as "Broad View."

**CHARLES CARTER.** A citizen whose activities have resulted in direct benefit to his community is Charles Carter, a resident of Converse since 1868. Mr. Carter was for years well known in business circles and subsequently became a public official, and the manner in which he discharged the duties of both public and private life gave him an established position in the confidence of his fellow-citizens that he has ever continued to maintain. He is a native son of Indiana, born at Columbus, December 8, 1853, a son of William Jerome and Egglantine (Barlow) Carter. On the paternal side he is a grandson of William Jerome Carter, Sr., while his maternal grandfather was William Barlow, inventor of the famous Barlow knife. This article was first fashioned by Mr. Barlow from a piece of steel and its general usefulness made it so popular that its fame spread all over the country, and wherever manufactured bore its inventor's name.

The father of Mr. Carter was born in Ohio, and on first coming to Indiana settled in Bartholomew county, where he was engaged at the carpenter trade, being so engaged at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. In 1862 he enlisted for service in Company D, Eighty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and sacrificed his life in defense of his country's flag, dying two and one-half years later at Jackson, Mississippi, where he was buried in the National Cemetery. After his death his widow married William G. Kirkman.

Charles Carter was seven years of age when taken to Oakford, Indiana, and five years later removed to Kokomo, where the family spent three years. In 1868 he came to Xenia, now Converse, that being the year that the railroad was completed to this point and not the year 1867 as often erroneously stated elsewhere. His education in boyhood was somewhat limited, being confined to a short attendance at a frame building in Converse that is now used as a barn. The greater part of his education was secured in the school of hard work, for as a youth he entered the employ of his stepfather, who was engaged in the manufacture of

shingles. Industrious and enterprising, he carefully saved his slender earnings, and was eventually able to buy out Mr. Kirkman, and continued to operate the business until the factory was destroyed by fire. Owing to a scarcity of timber, Mr. Carter did not rebuild his plant. During this time he had made a record for bundling more shingles than any other man engaged in the business, 10,000 an hour being his output. Later, however, machinery was manufactured that could bundle 20,000 in an hour. Mr. Carter subsequently entered the railroad mail service and served as clerk on the Pennsylvania lines for two years, but in 1885 began his public service as night policeman. Later he was elected city marshal, an office in which he served capably for three years, and in 1906 President Roosevelt appointed him postmaster at Converse. His able handling of the duties of the office caused his reappointment, in 1910, by President Taft, and he continued to faithfully look after the mail interests of the people of Converse until the expiration of his term of office, May 19, 1914. The city has had no more capable or popular official, and he has made friends among those of all classes and political belief. Mr. Carter is a Mason and an Odd Fellow and takes a great deal of interest in the progress of the local lodges of these orders. He was reared in the faith of the Baptist Church.

On November 13, 1880, Mr. Carter was married to Miss Jennie Cammack, daughter of William Cammack, and three children have been born to this union: Harry A., who died at the age of seven years, five months, six days; Clyde Colfax; and Halford Wendell.

**JOHN KNOX.** One of the leading industries of the city of Converse is that connected with the handling of grain, as this is the center of a prosperous agricultural country, and in this connection one who is carrying on a successful elevator business is John Knox, of the milling and elevator firm of Knox & Potter. Mr. Knox is essentially a self-made man, and from small beginnings has developed a business that attracts trade from all over the surrounding country, wise and able management and a reputation for strict integrity having made his name and his business widely known. Mr. Knox has interested himself in all that has affected his township, of which he is now a member of the county board of trustees, and has earned the right to be included among his section's representative men.

John Knox was born September 27, 1865, in Johnson county, Indiana, and is a son of Jesse W. and Margaret (Henderson) Knox, and a grandson of John L. Knox and John Henderson. His father, who was a cattle drover during the greater part of his life, emigrated to Miami county from Johnson county in 1882, settling in Miami, and there continued to reside until his death in 1898. He became well known in that town, was interested in Democratic politics, and served as a member of the board of county commissioners from 1888 to 1894. Mrs. Knox still survives her husband and makes her home at Converse.

John Knox received his education in the district schools of Johnson county, and was a youth of seventeen years when he accompanied his parents to the town of Miami. With his father he received his introduction into business life, learning the business of a drover, in which he was engaged for upwards of twenty-three years. In 1905 he came to Converse and became interested in the elevator and milling business, at first renting his present mill and elevator and subsequently buying it. With his partner, Mr. Potter, he has continued to conduct this enterprise, which has enjoyed a steady and healthy growth, and which has become known as one of the substantial and reliable concerns of Miami county. Mr. Knox is thoroughly conversant with every detail of the business.



and it is due in large measure to his constant attention thereto that the venture has prospered. He has been careful of his customers' interests, and has at all times held their full confidence. In fraternal circles he is known as a valued member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. During the last four years he has acted as a member of the Jackson township board of trustees, where he is giving the same conscientious service that has made his personal affairs so successful. He has at all times manifested a commendable willingness to support measures calculated to bring about progress and good citizenship, and his associates look to him for advice and leadership in matters of general importance.

In 1888, Mr. Knox was united in marriage with Miss Ada Herrell, who is a daughter of Absalom Herrell, and six children have been born to them: Forrest, Gerald, Silver, Mabel and Margaret, who are living, and Ernest, who died in the city of Peru when thirteen years of age. With the members of his family, Mr. Knox is a consistent member and liberal supporter of the Friends Church at Converse.

VERNE E. BALDWIN. It happens not infrequently that the male members of a family will manifest an inclination to follow the same profession or line of business, and particularly is this found to be true in the medical profession, in which the father, after long years of successful practice often turns his duties over to the hands of the son, who continues the labors where the older man left off. In the annals of the medical profession of Miami county no name is better known than that of Baldwin, as represented by Drs. John A. and Verne E. Baldwin, father and son, who for years have been engaged in active practice in the town of Amboy.

Dr. John A. Baldwin was born at Phlox, near Greentown, Howard county, Indiana, a son of Prof. Charles P. Baldwin. He first came to Amboy when this flourishing town was merely a trading post, wild game abounding and Indians being in great numbers. The railroads had not yet penetrated the heavy timber with which the surrounding country was covered, and pioneer conditions existed everywhere, yet here he took up his abode, engaging in the occupation of school teaching. While thus engaged he studied medicine and gradually built up an excellent practice, continuing to follow his profession for upwards of forty years, and at this time being the oldest physician in either Howard or Miami counties, although he is now living retired from active practice. In 1863 he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Union army during the Civil war, and later was transferred with other troops to the Twenty-fifth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, it being the object of the commanding general to bolster up the inexperienced Massachusetts recruits with several regiments of veterans from the hard-fighting troops of the West. Probably to no other man is the town of Amboy indebted in so great a degree for its present prosperous condition as to Dr. Baldwin. From earliest times he has been identified with the building interests of the community, erecting the oil barrel stave factory, where barrel staves were dressed in the early days, the slack barrel heading factory, for the manufacture of barrel heads and a saw-mill and bending factory, for the bending of school benches, which turned out a patented article that met a steady demand all over the United States. In addition he erected twelve brick buildings, and although the greater number of these have been destroyed by fire during the past three years, he has replaced them all. At the present time Dr. Baldwin is the owner of the greater part of the main business street

in Amboy, and also has numerous private properties. It would be difficult to name any large enterprise which has been promoted here that he has not in some way been identified with. A faithful member of the Society of Friends, he was the principal organizer of the Modern Friends Church at Amboy, and his interest in the cause of education has been made manifest by a membership on the school board that covered a period of eight years. For twelve years he was a member of the town board of trustees, and during this time took a leading part in promoting various innovations which made for progress and reform. He is justly considered one of Amboy's most representative citizens, and although now retired from active life is influential in all movements of importance which have their inception here. Dr. Baldwin was married to Mary A. Outland in 1875, a daughter of William Outland, of Miami county.

Verne E. Baldwin, son of John A. and Mary A. Baldwin, was born May 30, 1876, in Amboy, and was here given excellent educational advantages, attending the public schools and Indiana University. He engaged in teaching school in Miami county, and during 1894, 1895 and 1896 acted in the capacity of principal of Amboy Academy. He finished Indiana University in 1899, was superintendent of schools at New London, 1900-1901. At the end of that period he took up the study of medicine under the preceptorship of his father, and in 1904 received his degree from the Hering Medical College, Chicago. He at once entered upon the practice of his profession at Greentown, but in 1911 came to Amboy, which has since been the scene of his activities. Like his father, Dr. Baldwin is a skilled physician and careful student, and is conscientious in his care of his large practice. Like him, also, he has interested himself in affairs pertaining to his community's welfare, thus winning the respect and esteem that has always been accorded the elder man.

In 1899 Dr. Baldwin was married to Miss Bertha Jeffrey, daughter of Robert and Abigail (Hadley) Jeffrey, and three children have been born to this union: Bessie, born 1901; Thelma, born March 6, 1905; and Rosalind, born October 10, 1910.

ALVA DOAN. Nearly forty years have passed since Alva Doan first came to Miami county, and during this time he has been a witness to and an active participant in the wonderful changes which have made this one of the most prosperous sections of the great Hoosier State. Mr. Doan has at all times manifested a commendable interest in the welfare of his community, and belongs to that representative class of citizens who while furthering their own success also look after the success of their township's affairs. He is now the owner of a handsomely-cultivated farm of 120 acres, located in Jackson township, and is known as a skilled farmer and successful breeder of cattle. Mr. Doan was born in Clinton county, Ohio, September 4, 1860, and is a son of Abner and Susanna (Read) Doan, and a grandson of Elisha Doan and Robert Read. His father passed away in 1911, while his mother still lives and makes her home with him.

Alva Doan received his education in the public schools of his native State, and was still a youth when the family moved to Missouri. From that State, in 1875, they came to Miami county, Indiana, first settling on a part of the Milton Douglass farm, on which had been erected several log buildings. The country was still in an almost primitive condition, large forests and marshland being seen on every hand, while the only roads were those of mud and it was not until 1886 that the first turnpike road, the Ballard, was built. Mr. Doan made several moves after engaging



in business on his own account, and for a number of years lived on rented land, but eventually settled on his present property, which he purchased. Here had been built several buildings, but they were old and dilapidated and required that they be nearly rebuilt. These old structures have totally disappeared and in their place are found substantial buildings of modern design and solid character that give the property a prosperous appearance and enhance its value. The past twenty years have seen wonderful changes take place in the county, but none has been greater than that which has occurred on the Doan property. Mr. Doan now has his 120 acres in a high state of cultivation, and both his farming and stock raising operations have proved satisfactory. He uses modern machinery in his work and, although an eminently practical man, is ready to try new methods of treating the soil. Mr. Doan takes an interest in fraternal work, being connected with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

On September 3, 1884, Mr. Doan was united in marriage with Miss Antoinette Stewart, daughter of Jackson L. and Eliza J. (McKay) Stewart, the former of whom passed away in 1911, while the latter survives and is a resident of Amboy, Indiana. The Stewarts came to Miami county from Decatur county, during the early fifties. Mr. and Mrs. Doan have one son: Albert O., born July 26, 1889, a farmer and school teacher of Jackson township, who married Susanna Lamb, the daughter of Ezra Lamb. They have one little son, born September 9, 1913, and named Allen W. Doan. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Doan is known as "The Maples."

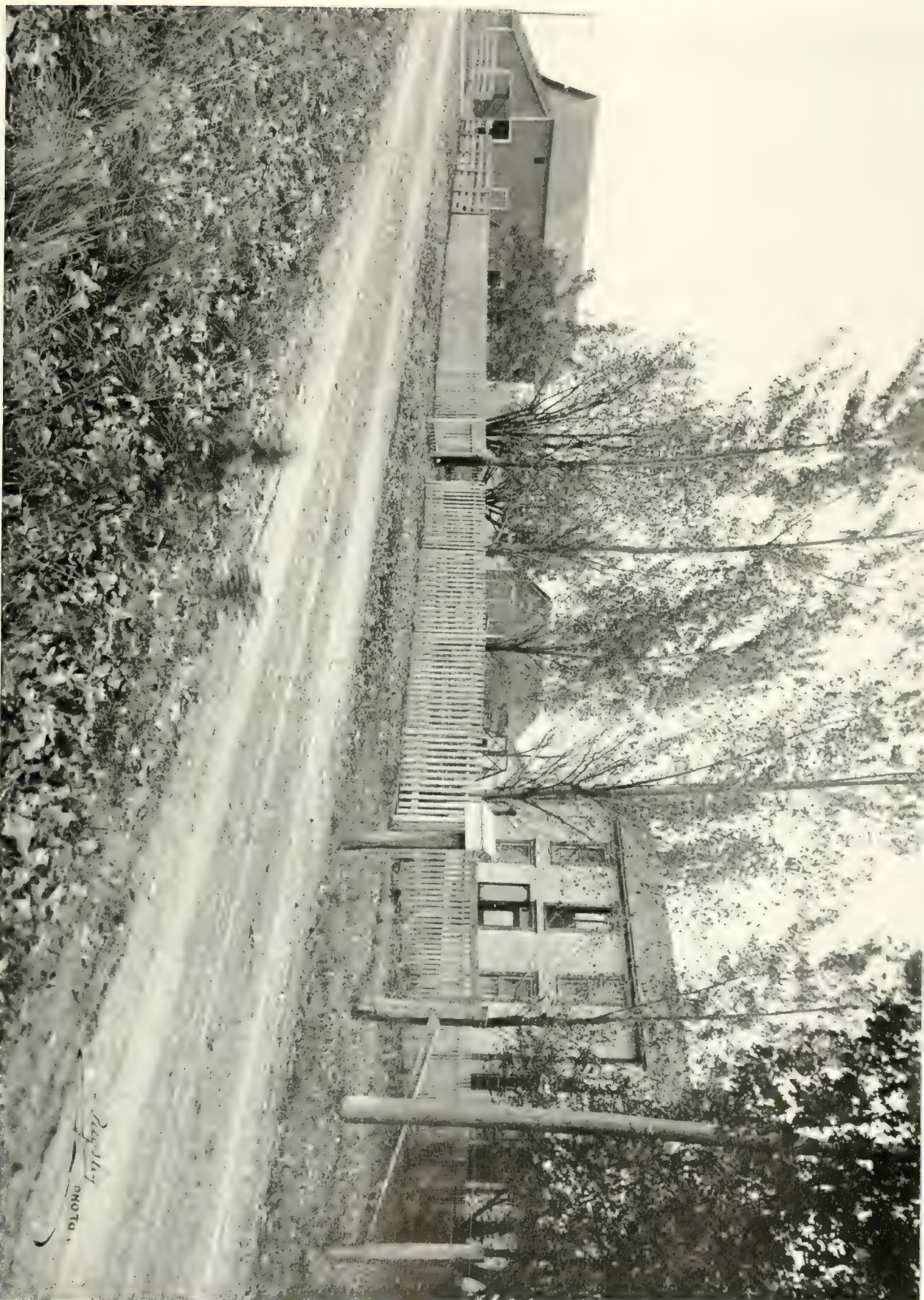
**MICHAEL B. WININGER.** For a period of more than six decades the Wininger family has been identified with Miami county. The chief center of their activities and their influence as wholesome and vigorous citizens has been Deer Creek township, where Michael Wininger has spent practically all the years of his life. The interests of the country, the quiet, but stimulating activities of a rural community, the hard work and the kindly neighborliness of such a community have been the chief features in the life of Michael Wininger, who has contrived to prosper and has provided well for his family of children, most of whom have already taken independent places in the world of affairs.

Michael B. Wininger was born on the farm he now occupies in Deer Creek township, December 18, 1856, a son of George and Cindrella (Badger) Wininger. His father came to Indiana in the late forties from Wyandotte county, Ohio, and took up his residence on a tract of land three hundred and twenty acres in extent in Deer Creek township of Miami county. There he made his first improvement by erecting a small frame house, and for a number of years his energies were directed toward the clearing and cultivating of his land. On that land his declining lifetime was spent and there his death occurred in 1876, passing away in the fullness of years, and with the esteem of all the community. His widow survived him until 1911, continuing to reside on the farm and reaching a ripe old age. After the father's death, the son built a more modern residence, the one now occupied by him and his son's family.

Michael B. Wininger grew up in Deer Creek township, attended the local schools, and had the old-time vocational training of the average country boy, most of his time being applied to the duties of the home farm, while at such intervals as his services could be spared, he was a pupil in the district schools. Thus he assumed the serious responsibilities of life when still a youth, and has always known the value of hard labor as a means to prosperity. Mr. Wininger married Miss Ida Cepner, a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Long) Cepner, who came out from



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL B. WININGER



July 1917  
PHOTO





Pennsylvania, and were among the early settlers of Cass county, Indiana, where they lived until death. To Mr. and Mrs. Wininger have been born eight children, record of whom is as follows: Lula, born May 9, 1882, is now the wife of Guy Sharp; Carrie, born February 3, 1884, married Charles Herrell; Isabelle, born October 30, 1886, married Arthur Rickard; Frank, born August 27, 1888, is unmarried; Lillie, born December 20, 1890; Harvey, born September 5, 1895, died in 1906; Ruth, born April 15, 1900, died in February, 1901; Ethel, born April 26, 1893; Lora, born May 12, 1898; and Dorothy, born November 13, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Wininger have taken pains to give their children the best possible advantages in both the schools and in the culture of a home and its environment and their children have proved a credit to their parents, and by lives of industry and honor are making the family name of still greater benefit and value to a county which has known the Winingers for so many years. The family attend worship at the Christian church.

**DANIEL F. BLACKBURN.** The career of Daniel Blackburn, one of the substantial farmer-citizens of Jackson township, has, since earliest childhood, been one of industrious labor and energetic effort. Put out to work among strangers when but eight years of age, he early manifested a commendable ambition and a determination to succeed that brought him constant and steady advancement, and when he was ready to enter the field of business on his own account he was able to force his way to the top through sheer aggressiveness and self-reliance. Today, the owner of a fine farm of 130 acres, and possessed of the full confidence of his fellow-citizens, he is a striking example of the truth of the old maxim that industry, honesty and earnest effort invariably succeed.

Mr. Blackburn was born August 18, 1866, in Clay township, Miami county, Indiana, the second of five children of Nelson and Louisa (Lambert) Blackburn. His father, an agriculturist of Clay township, passed away when Daniel was still a small lad, and was buried at Mexico, Indiana, and his widow later was married to Al Blue, there being five children born to this union. She died in 1907, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Bunker Hill, Indiana.

Daniel Blackburn received limited instruction in the district schools of Clay township, but the greater part of his education was acquired in the school of hard work, as when he was but eight years of age, as before mentioned, he was put out to labor among the hands of the neighboring farmers. When he was eleven years of age he went to live at the home of John Zody, a farmer of Clay township, with whom he continued to work until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he formed a partnership with George C. Miller. This association continued for eighteen years, at the end of which time they held the largest sale in the history of Miami county, which amounted to over \$5,000, the partnership being closed on the most amicable of terms. At that time Mr. Blackburn purchased his present property of 130 acres, located in Jackson township, where he has since added in material manner to the improvements. In addition to several new structures, he has built the windmill, and has added to the tiling on the place, 350 rods, making a total of 850 rods of tiling. He is known as an excellent farmer, who thoroughly understands modern methods, and in business circles has a reputation for the strictest integrity. A faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he has been superintendent of the Sunday school for the past four years, and also holds membership in the board of trustees. His political belief is that of the Democratic party, and from 1904 to 1908 he acted in the capacity of trustee of Harrison township. All movements making for progress have received his hearty sup-



port, and his signal services have contributed in no small measure to the development of his community.

On February 16, 1893, Mr. Blackburn was married to Miss Anna Whitezel, daughter of John Whitezel, who was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. Nine children have been born to this union: Edith N., Pearl N., Mary F., John R., Nelson M., Martha R., Lois Marie, Alva D. and Marguerite, all living at home, and all attending school except one, three being in the high school. Edith is a graduate and now one of the teachers in Amboy Academy.

**JOHN A. BALDWIN, M. D.** The prosperity and advancement of a community depend upon the personal character and the individual enterprise of its members, and in every prosperous town or country will be found citizens who take the lead in affairs of business and public welfare, and give their energies not alone to their own well being, but to the things that mean better and fuller life for all. As such a citizen in Miami county, and particularly in the flourishing little town of Amboy, was Mr. John A. Baldwin, recognized for many years. Mr. Baldwin was one of the oldest members of the medical profession in Miami county. He also represented one of the oldest families in this section of Indiana, belonging to that sterling Quaker stock, which was not only prominent in the development of material affairs, but gave the strength of character and thrifty and high-minded purposes to a large section of this state.

John A. Baldwin was a native of Grant county, Indiana, where he was born January 4, 1844. His paternal grandfather was Abel Baldwin and his father's name was Charles P. Baldwin. The maiden name of his mother was Rachel Lancaster, and she was the daughter of Jesse Lancaster. Dr. Baldwin's father was twice married, and the children of the first marriage, besides the doctor, were: Hattie, who married Dr. Holton and is now living in California, her husband being a professor in Los Angeles; Rhoda, who first married David Puterbaugh, and then George W. Seagraves, and is now a resident of Greentown, Indiana. The second marriage of Dr. Baldwin's father was with Mrs. Elizabeth W. (Whittaker) Winner, and the three children of that marriage were: Zadie, the wife of Marcus C. Pierson, a Presbyterian minister in Illinois; Jennie, the wife of Dr. Hawkins of Swazey; and Melle, who married James Chapman, a resident of Hartford City, Indiana.

Dr. John A. Baldwin came to Miami county on the tenth day of September, 1868, his previous residence having been in Jerome, Howard county, and at that date he located in Amboy, and was for forty-five years continuously a resident of this town. All of his children were born at Amboy, and besides providing for a large family of his own, it was a matter of great satisfaction to him that he has been able to promote and put forward the substantial advancement and welfare of this entire community.

He began his career a poor boy, and has won his advancement through his own efforts. He had completed such schooling as was afforded him during his youth, and was nineteen years of age when, in 1863, he enlisted in the army. He first served four months in Company A of the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana Infantry, after which he enlisted in Company H of the Twenty-third Indiana. He thereafter served until the end of the war. From the Twenty-third Indiana he was transferred by executive order to the Twenty-fifth Massachusetts Regiment. The Twenty-fifth Massachusetts had been composed of college students from Boston. These young men were of rich parentage,

without any experience in hardships and when they first went into action on the battlefield they were panic stricken and worse than useless on the field. They were ordered discharged for cowardice, but Lincoln hearing of the order countermanded it and devised a scheme to boost up the courage of the Massachusetts men. He ordered two western veterans transferred to each company of the Massachusetts regiment, and Dr. Baldwin chanced to be one of the two assigned to one of the companies in the Twenty-fifth Massachusetts. After this reorganization, the regiment was given its first test by being stationed on the skirmish line between the two contending armies. The enemy had brought on a surprise and conflict was inevitable. The result was disastrous to the Twenty-fifth Massachusetts and to the plans of President Lincoln. At the end of the battle the only men left from the regiment were the westerners who had been assigned to the regiment, the college men having been victims of a complete panic and all captured, killed or missing. It is said that that was the most complete obliteration of a regiment in the entire history of the Union army.

After the war Mr. Baldwin completed his studies in the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, and first located for practice in Howard county, where he remained two years before coming to Miami county. His career as a physician and a soldier was accompanied by many business activities, so that in the popular mind his name is as clearly identified with local industry and commerce as with the practice of medicine. At the beginning of his activities in this direction, he established a sash, door and stave and general planing mill at Amboy. He and his associates built a factory and soon afterwards the doctor's brother-in-law, David Puterbaugh, previously mentioned, was caught in the machinery and killed; Mr. Puterbaugh was foreman of the factory. The enterprise was then continued under the active supervision of Dr. Baldwin. From twenty to fifty hands were employed, and the plant was continued prosperously for twelve years. An oil barrel stave factory, for dressing staves for the manufacture of oil barrels was another important local enterprise behind which were the doctor and his resources. Another concern in which he was deeply interested was a slack barrel heading factory, for the making of headings for barrels. A binding factory to manufacture binding for school benches was another enterprise. This factory had the contract for manufacturing the bindings of a patent desk, and this desk was used all over the United States. Dr. Baldwin next organized a company for the manufacture of a brick and drain tile. Dr. Baldwin had the distinction of having erected the first brick building in Amboy, and in the course of his career he built twelve brick business blocks and in the last three years eight of these have burned, but all were restored by him.

Dr. Baldwin was always at the fore front in matters of public spirit, and he served on the school and town boards. He was a strong advocate of prohibition and for this reason was seldom in the way of popular waves of sentiment which would otherwise give him large official distinctions. He was one of the organizers and is one of the board of managers of the local Friends church. When Dr. Baldwin located in this section of Indiana there were as yet no railroads completed, and he consequently witnessed almost the entire development of modern civilization in this region. The town of Amboy had just been platted when he came here and there were only a few houses standing on the site. Soon after he came the citizens organized the Friends Academy, a school under Quaker influence and supported by Quaker people largely. That was the first school institution in this part of the county that had any high school features, and pupils came there from miles around. The



Academy is still in existence and is one of the historic features of Amboy. There has never been a licensed saloon in Amboy, and it is said that this town has turned out more preachers, doctors and teachers than all the rest of the counties put together. It is remarkable what power of heaven such a community has in the larger areas such as a county or even an entire state. The Baldwin family have always been identified with the things of culture and refinement. The father of the doctor was a school teacher, and his mother also taught school, while his paternal grandfather was likewise one of the teachers of his day. Dr. Baldwin's father had the distinction of being the first postmaster in Howard county, and was also the first merchant and it was his custom to haul his goods from Richmond by ox teams.

Dr. Baldwin was married February 14, 1868, to Miss Sarah J. Hunt, a daughter of Phamuel and Eleanor (Ellis) Hunt. The first wife of Dr. Baldwin died in 1873 and in 1875 he married Miss Mary Annis Outland, a daughter of William T. and Mary Annis (Binford) Outland. The children of Dr. Baldwin are named as follows: Charles P., an attorney at Amboy, whose career is briefly sketched in the following paragraph; Arthur, who is a Peru physician and who married Emma Kalbleisch; Verne E., who is married to Miss Bertha Jeffrey; Lena Blanche, who married Edward Warne, a miller in Kokomo; Belva Mildred, who married Glenn D. Pence, who is a farmer at Dunkirk; Russell, who is unmarried and a teacher in Amboy high school; Omega, who died at the age of four years; Frederick, who died at the age of ten months, and was the first loss in the family; Josiah, who died at the age of two years. Mrs. Baldwin is a native of Northampton county, North Carolina, born August 17, 1848, and she is the second in a family of six children, five sons and one daughter, born to her parents, four of whom are living. The father was a native of North Carolina, and came to Indiana settling in Hancock county. By vocation he was an agriculturist. Both he and wife were Friends in their religious belief. Mr. Outland was interred in Rush county, Indiana, and Mrs. Outland in Miami county. Mrs. Baldwin is a lady with more than ordinary education. After completing the public schools she had one year's work in high school. She was a successful teacher, two years in the Amboy public schools and one year in Hancock county. She is a member of the Friends church.

Dr. Baldwin passed away June 14, 1913, and in an article which appeared in the Amboy *Independent*, commemorating his life and deeds, is here given in part as follows:

"John Able Baldwin, only son of Charles P. and Rachel Baldwin, was born in Grant county, Indiana, on the 4th day of January, 1844, and died at his home at Amboy, Ind., as a result of a stroke of apoplexy, on the 14th day of June, 1913, aged 69 years, 5 months and 10 days.

"Dr. Baldwin was an early settler in the village of Amboy and has watched with keen interest the development of every enterprise in the town's history.

"With Tilson Harlan as a partner he launched and operated the Amboy Stave factory for a number of years and did a large and profitable business in the years immediately prior to the panic of 1873. During this panic the general business of the country began to crumble and the Amboy Stave factory was no exception to the rule. Though financially embarrassed, his fearless determination to do something worth while caused him to again enter the manufacturing field and he, with others organized and operated the Miami Brick and Tile Co., which did a thriving business for several years. Later on he, associated with other members of his family, incorporated The Amboy Improvement Company

which company, through his efforts and management has been instrumental in improving unsightly and unimproved properties; during all of these recent years he has also been a close observer and student of geology. He made a specialty of the gas and oil strata of the earth's formation and could tell in a moment the various depths at which trenton stone was found for miles about, and the gas wells in which he invested almost universally were wells of unusual quality and endurance.

"Not only was Dr. Baldwin interested in the mercenary side of life, but he ever held to the highest ideals of social purity. He was zealous in all matters for the general uplift of education and morality; he devoted his best efforts to that which he thought to be his best religious duty; he catered not to the popular applause, but chose rather to suffer affliction in the discharge of his conscientious duty.

"Several years ago he united with the Orthodox Friends and remained a member until a few years ago when he became a charter member of the Modern Friends church of Amboy. In politics he was formerly a Republican but for thirty years he has been working with the Prohibition party, and always casting his ballot for what he thought to be his political duty. In support of all worthy efforts he was a liberal contributor and many times suffered privation for the purpose of extending a righteous and worthy principle.

"In educational matters he exhibited an abnormal interest and was ever ready to advise unsettled young men and women to accumulate an education; not only was his interest confined to advice, for many graduates of the Amboy Academy, who have gone out in the world to combat life's struggles have dated their success from the timely assistance and words of encouragement received from Dr. Baldwin. For several years he was a member of the school board of the Amboy Academy. He was a leading factor in the establishment of the old Amboy Friends Academy, now Amboy High School, and the history of this grand institution would be incorrectly written without mention of his name.

"The great zeal and interest manifested by Dr. Baldwin in matters in which he conscientiously believed often created for him unpleasant surroundings, but he was dauntless in his conscientious duty; he was often misunderstood but had great charity for those who occasionally failed to understand his motive. He was not of a combative nature and often endured insult rather than exhibit a pugnacious tendency.

"To those who understood him he was a source of pleasure and interest; his views of current history were founded on good reason and keen perception; rarely was he mistaken in his diagnosis of social or political ailments; his familiarity with the principles of *Materia-Medica* and the theory of disease and cure, gave him an uncommon advantage in any diagnosis.

"During his practice of medicine he learned that there are times when all remedies fail and sociable and wise suggestion must be employed to assist nature to bring about a normal relationship between different organs of the body and thus it was by this method he attracted and retained many friends and patients who feel keenly the loss of this member of our community.

"The funeral was held in the Friends Church which was crowded with his many friends and relatives. The sermon was preached by Rev. Earnest Wiggins, pastor of the Modern Friends church, of Amboy, assisted in the services by Rev. Napier of the Friends Church of Amboy, Rev. John Kennedy of the W. M. Church of Amboy, and Rev. Ed. Kennedy, Methodist Episcopal minister of Macy, Indiana.

"The body was laid to rest in the Friends Cemetery at Amboy.



“Many beautiful floral expressions of sympathy and respect were received by the family, being contributed by the many friends and societies of the locality. All business of the town was closed for the hour of the funeral and all citizens exhibited a solemn respect for the departed pioneer.”

CHARLES P. BALDWIN. The oldest son of Dr. John A. Baldwin, and himself one of the leading lawyers and business men of Miami county, Charles P. Baldwin is a native son of this county, was reared here, received academic education, for a number of years, was associated with his father in the large enterprises conducted under Dr. Baldwin's name in Amboy, and some five years ago turned his attention to the law, was admitted to the bar, and is now one of the active young attorneys in the southern part of the county.

Charles P. Baldwin was born at Amboy, July 19, 1869, a son of Dr. John A. Baldwin, whose career has been sketched in preceding paragraphs. Mr. Charles P. Baldwin married Miss Cesta J. Tudor. They are the parents of the following children: Harry T.; Fred C.; and Mary Jeanette.

Mr. Baldwin went through the Amboy high school and the local academy, a course which included the equivalent of the first year in college. For five years he was engaged as a school teacher, and for one year had taught in the district schools of this county before he had finished his own education. He was then married in 1895 and at once became actively associated with his father in the gas business and in the manufacture of drain tile. In 1896 he moved to Marion, in Grant county, where he was in the grocery business until April, 1897. He then took a place in the produce business, conducted by S. Tudor and Company, and continued in that work until January, 1903. At that date, returning with his family he again became the associate of his father in the gas business and in the manufacture of building brick and sand brick. He was interested in the construction of some of the business blocks in Amboy, and during the years 1906 and 1907 he put in a great deal of his time in reading Blackstone, and also followed up his studies by correspondence. At the end of this work, he was examined and admitted to the bar of Miami county in 1908, and since then has applied himself to active practice. He also conducts an agency for insurance and loans, and has served as attorney for the town. Mr. Baldwin is a member of the Friends church and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias.

LOUIS BETZNER. Few families have contributed more virile and efficient business energy to the modern activities of Miami county than the Betznors. The leading hardware enterprise of Peru is conducted by brothers of this name, one or two others are engaged in industrial work, and the youngest is a substantial farmer and influential citizen of Deer Creek township.

The founder of the family in Miami county was the late Louis F. Betzner, who was for a long period of years identified with the farming activities of Deer Creek township. He came here in 1861 from Trenton, New Jersey, and bought the place where his son Louis Betzner now lives. A log house stood on the farm at that time, and that provided the first shelter and living accommodations for his little family. Later it was replaced by a substantial brick dwelling, and that still stands on the land, and is occupied by descendants of its builders. With the assistance of his sons Louis Betzner cleared and improved his land, and spent the rest of his life there. His death occurred September 14, 1903.

Louis F. Betzner was born in Germany, spent his youth there in attending school and in a substantial training that well served him after beginning life in the new world. Before he left his native land he had served six years in the German Army. The maiden name of his wife was Catherine Bender, and she too was a native of Germany. Her death occurred June 9, 1911. They reared a large family of children, who are now useful and respected members of the respective communities in which they live. Their names in order of birth are as follows: John G., Eli B., Carl E., Frederick H., Emma C., wife of Eli Bowser, Mary M., wife of Warren Morrow, and Louis C.

John G. Betzner the oldest of these children was born December 20, 1857. He was reared on his father's farm, assisted in the farm work and attended the district school. In his youth he learned the blacksmith trade, and for a time was employed as foreman in the rolling mills at Marion. Following this he became superintendent of the rolling mills in East Chicago, where he remained until he came to his present location at Hammond, Indiana, where he is engine foreman in the chemical works. John G. Betzner married Miss Carrie Spangler.

Eli B. Betzner, the second of the sons, was born March 18, 1859. His boyhood days were passed on his father's farm until he was sixteen. Then he learned the harness maker's trade in Peru, with Valentine Smith, and for a few years remained there in that line of business. His next employment was in the harness shops owned by Dr. Hugh A. Ager, and his connection subsisted to mutual advantage and profit through fourteen years. In 1903 Eli became a partner in the Betzner Brothers hardware store in Peru, and has since been identified with that flourishing establishment. He married Miss Tillie Troster, and they have two children Blanche and Clarence. Eli B. Betzner is both an Odd Fellow and a Knight of the Maccabees. Carl E. Betzner remained on the farm until he attained his twenty-first year. He was born February 3, 1861. In 1883 he became a clerk in the hardware store of Puterbaugh Brothers at Peru, and with the exception of about one year when he was stock keeper for the Peru Electric Manufacturing Company, continued with them until 1903. In that year the firm of Betzner Brothers, consisting of Eli B. and Carl E. bought the Puterbaugh Brothers store, and has since conducted it on increasing lines of importance and success. Carl Betzner married Laura F. Martin, and they have one daughter Hazel. In politics he is a Democrat, as are all his brothers, and his fraternal affiliations are with Peru Lodge No. 539, I. O. O. F., the Knights of the Maccabees, and the United Commercial Travelers.

Frederick H. Betzner spent his boyhood and reached manhood on his father's farm. When he left the old homestead he became a carpenter for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company at Kokomo. Later he was engaged in the restaurant business at Middletown, Indiana, where he remained until 1913. He is unmarried.

Louis C. Betzner, the youngest son, was born November 19, 1871, on the farm where he has since lived, having succeeded his father in the operation of the old place. In addition to attending the schools near his home, he was for a time a student in Bunker Hill and later in St. Louis. Louis C. Betzner was married April 22, 1896, to Miss Matilda Hartman, a daughter of John and Mary (Meek) Hartman. Her grandfather Dr. Meek was instrumental in getting a postoffice established at Bunker Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Betzner have two children: Wayne, born July 23, 1897, and Catherine, born November 17, 1900. Fraternally Mr. Betzner is identified with both the Knights of Pythias and the Masons at Bunker Hill. He has passed all the chairs in the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 299, and is senior warden of the Masonic



Lodge No. 683. His church relations are maintained with the Methodist Episcopal and he is now chairman of the board of trustees and has served as superintendent of the Sunday School.

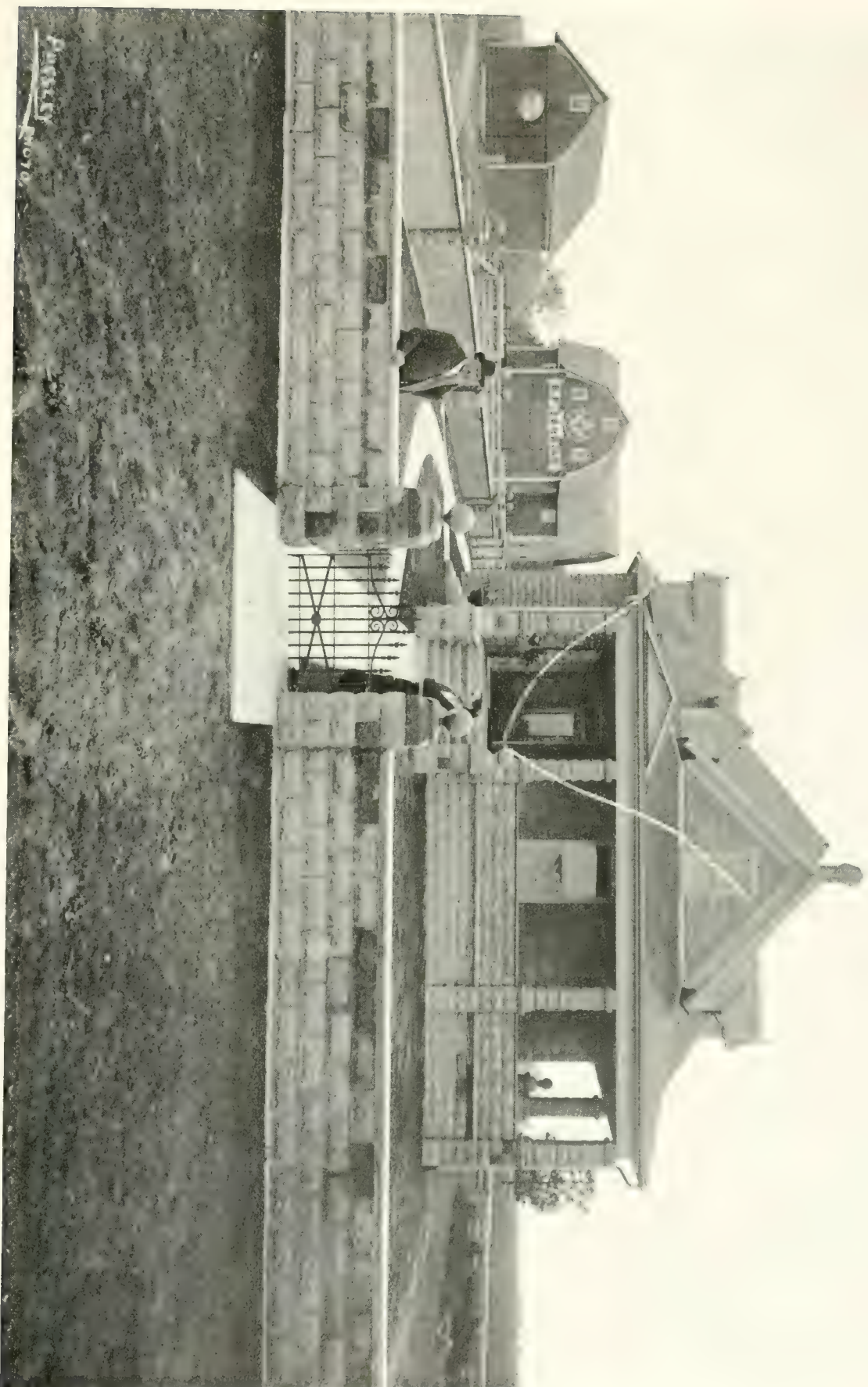
**BENJAMIN F. ZEHRING.** A resident of Miami county for more than 57 years, Mr. Zehring represents one of the families who have been most influential in the development of the material resources of southwestern part of the county, and which for half a century or more have furnished numerous members to the local government and to all general movements for the community's welfare and upbuilding.

Mr. Benjamin F. Zehring, who has been a farmer but always on the basis of sound business principles and very successful in all his undertakings was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, January 26, 1849. The family history properly has a place in the personal annals of Miami county.

The family annals go back to the great-grandfather of the present Deer Creek resident. This was Christian Zehring, a native of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, and a blacksmith by trade. He married Mary Rauch and they were the parents of a large family of sons and daughters. Christian Zehring in 1818 came to Ohio and located in Warren county, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a member of the German Baptist Church and was a Democrat of the Jackson type, and a typical pioneer.

William Zehring, the grandfather of Benjamin F., was born in Pennsylvania, married Elizabeth Garst, and in the spring of 1818 located in Butler county, Ohio. Ten years later he sold his farm in Butler county, and moved to Montgomery county, which was his home until 1850. He then lived at different localities in Ohio until 1857, at which date he came to Deer Creek township in Miami county and made his home there until his death on August 16, 1873. He was brought up under the German Baptist faith and like his father was a Jacksonian Democrat. He and his wife were the parents of five children, John, William, Christian, Lydia and Barbara.

William Zehring, the father was born in Butler county, Ohio, May 3, 1821, and married in 1844 Miss Susan Feagler, who was born in 1824, a daughter of John and Susanna (Cullers) Feagler. William Zehring and wife for some years and after their marriage lived on his father's old farm in Montgomery county, Ohio, and in 1850 they came to Preble county, and after six years there to Montgomery county and lived there one year. In 1857 they immigrated to Indiana and located in Dear Creek township on a quarter-section of land, which he had purchased. Although some twenty-five years had passed since the first settlement in this county, yet a large portion of its fertile area was undeveloped and still in its primitive wilderness condition. Only fifty acres of the one hundred sixty bought by William Zehring was clear, and all the rest was in heavy timber. Though able to purchase this land, he was comparatively a poor man, and in addition during his early years of residence in this county had a good deal of bad luck. He owned an interest in a saw-mill which was burned and lost nearly all his ready resources, but he was a man of remarkable industry and a good business manager, and finally became one of the most prosperous citizens in this section of the county. In 1864 he built a two-story brick house and with barns and other improvements to correspond, he made his homestead one of the most attractive in the entire township. The children of his marriage with Miss Feagler were Josiah, William L., Benjamin F., Elizabeth, John H. and Alfred E. The mother of these children died February 18, 1865. William Zehring was always a Democrat and a man of influence, both in his party and in his



“WALNUT DELL GRANGE”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN F. ZEHRING





community. He served some six years or more as a county commissioner, was township trustee for eight terms and also served in the state legislature and in other minor positions which imposed a heavy burden upon their holders and with little reward except in the consciousness of duty performed. He was one of the original members of the old patrons of husbandry in Deer Creek township.

Benjamin F. Zehring represents one of the sturdiest and most highly respected families of this county. He was reared in Miami county from the time he was eight years of age, attended the old district schools which existed here during the fifties and sixties, and the actual experience and hard work on his father's farm prepared himself for an independent career as an agriculturist. In 1871 he married Miss Mary McIlwain, a daughter of John McIlwain. The only child of this marriage was Sallie, who was born January 7, 1873, and who became the wife of Edward F. Wood, and the mother of two children named Russell and Lucinda. The first wife of Mr. Zehring died in February, 1873, and six years later he married Ruth Wininger, a daughter of George Wininger. There are two children by the second marriage, namely: Alonzo M., born March 17, 1879, and William, born October 9, 1882. Alonzo M. married May Rayburn, and William married Madge Quinn, a daughter of Robert Henry Quinn, William J. and wife have three children, Robert F., Forrest Q. and Thelma V.

Mr. Zehring has acquired a comfortable and profitable estate where he now lives as a result of his own management and hard toil. His home farm contains thirty-nine acres, but he owns two other farms and in the aggregate has two hundred and seventy acres of fine farming land in this county. This accumulation of material resources does not represent all the profits of his industry, because he lent his resources for the assistance of his father during the latter's financial difficulties. He has placed all the excellent buildings upon his farms and has done a great amount of clearing, and by his many improvements has contributed to the general valuation and welfare of this section of Miami county. He is an attendant at the Methodist church, and fraternally is affiliated with Crescent Lodge No. 280, A. F. & A. M., Miami, Indiana, having been a Mason for the past eleven years. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Zehring is known as "Walnut Dell Grange," and the residence is one of the most beautiful and modern in Miami county. All the modern conveniences are to be found in this beautiful home.

ANDREW J. KURTZ. As a farmer and stock raiser, Mr. Kurtz is one of the most prominent in Miami county, and is a successful representative of a family which has been identified with similar interests in this county for upwards of sixty years. In the fine country of Deer Creek township, the Kurtz family from the early days have been noted as skillful managers of the resources of the soil, and have maintained high standards in the local society and citizenship. The fine old Kurtz homestead is now occupied by Andrew J. Kurtz and his has long been a place of prosperity in this section.

Andrew J. Kurtz was born in Deer Creek township, April 17, 1859, a son of John and Dorothy (Hepperly) Kurtz. As the name suggests the Kurtz family is of German origin, and both John and his wife were natives of the Fatherland. However, they were married in Ohio, having come separately to America, and from Ohio, early in the fifties journeyed to Indiana, and became early settlers of Deer Creek township. The father made his first clearing in a tract of heavily timbered land, built a log house, whose rude comforts were enjoyed by the family for several years, and all their experiences were those of the pioneer style.



As the years went by the father and his sons cleared practically all the land and cultivated the fields, increasing profit and prosperity. The old log cabin gave away to a substantial frame dwelling, and other improvements marked the steadily growing family fortune. Here the father and wife passed their lives and died, she passing away March, 1902, and he January 1, 1892.

Andrew J. Kurtz, who had been engaged in farming on other land, took charge of the home farm in 1907. He grew up in Deer Creek township, received a fair education in the district schools, and has been a hard worker all his life. In 1889 Andrew J. Kurtz married Malinda C. Apple, a daughter of John Apple. Mr. Kurtz and wife after their marriage started out to make their fortune without any capital to speak of, and by careful management and hard work laid a substantial foundation and have been able to provide well for themselves and family of five children. These children are: Lillie, Roy, Lloyd and Edith, twins, and Jessie. All the children are at home, and Miss Lillie is one of the popular and successful young school teachers of the township. Fraternally Mr. Kurtz is an Odd Fellow, a member of the Bunker Hill Lodge, and has passed all the chairs of his lodge. His political principles are those of the Democratic party, and he and his family are attendants of the Methodist church.

EDWARD L. WILLSON. In the farming district of Miami county are many prosperous and progressive men who believe that the happiest as well as the most independent life is to be lived on a farm. Prominent among these is Edward L. Willson, of Deer Creek township. His individual career has been one of solid accomplishment since he started out and took the first step by getting married something more than thirty years ago. He is known as an excellent farmer, and a man who can be depended upon in all matters of local moment.

Edward L. Willson was born in Lanier township, Preble county, Ohio, August 10, 1859, a son of Jacob Wesley and Lucinda (Burtnor) Willson. Jacob W. Willson was born on the same farm as his son Edward, and his father was James Willson. Jacob W. Willson was one of a family of five sons, two others being named John and James. Lucinda Burtnor was a daughter of Jacob Burtnor, and a granddaughter of Kamp Burtnor. She was one of a family of five sons and three daughters, named as follows: Abram, Joe P., Jacob, Joshua F., Francis M., Julia Ann, Lucinda, and Sarah. Jacob Wesley Willson brought his family from Ohio to Indiana, during the Civil war, and on March 4, 1864, took up his residence in the town of Mexico, in Miami county, where he died the following year on March 5. After his death his widow and children went back to Ohio, and made their home with her parents until her second marriage. February 11, 1869, she became the wife of Hon. William Zehring, and returned with him to Indiana. Their home was on the place now occupied by Alfred Zehring in Deer Creek township. By her first marriage Lucinda Willson had three children, including Edward L., whose brothers were Louis B., who died in infancy, and Charles W., who died at the age of two years. By her second marriage Mrs. Lucinda Zehring had one child, Catherine, who died at the age of two years.

Edward L. Willson was a small boy when he first came to Miami county. His boyhood days were spent here and at his grandfather's home in Ohio, and when starting out on his own account he found farming as a vocation for which his talents and inclinations best fitted him. With some assistance from his home-folks, he started in a small way, and by using the means and opportunities that lay nearest him,

has contrived to prosper from one year to the next, and is now one of the most substantial and best known country residents in the southern half of Miami county.

In February, 1880, he took up his residence on the place he now occupies, and lived with the family there for a short time until his own marriage, when he began housekeeping. At the time he came into the possession of the farm, its buildings consisted of a four-room brick house, a double corn-crib, and a log stable, which he used for several years. In 1882 a new barn was put up under his supervision, and in 1900 the comfortable house which now affords shelter and home for his family was completed. Mr. Willson cleared up about twenty acres of the land, and made many other changes in cultivation and at the present time his farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres ranks with the representatives estates of the township.

On November 18, 1880, Mr. Willson and Miss Anna McHale were united in marriage. Mrs. Willson, who was one of a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, is a daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth Ann (Good) McHale. Her father died January 21, 1910, and her mother on February 21, 1885. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Willson have been born four children, as follows: Jessie M., born June 27, 1882, was married on Christmas Day of 1911 to Dr. W. E. Garretson of Galveston, in Cass county. Walter A., born June 11, 1885, was married December 29, 1909, to Miss Lola Herrell; Harry E., born February 8, 1887, died at the age of nineteen months; Hazel L., born September 5, 1891, is now engaged in teaching her second term of school in Miami county. It has been the object of Mr. and Mrs. Willson to supply their children with the best possible advantages, and for many years their combined thrift and economy and hard work provided the means which they have liberally laid out for the benefit of their children and which now supplies themselves with a comfortable home in which to spend their evening years. Mr. Willson is affiliated with the Masonic Order and is now the oldest living Past Master of his lodge, his membership being in Galveston Lodge No. 244, A. F. & A. M. Of late years he has been an attendant at the Baptist church. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Willson is known as "Maple Grange."

**JOHN W. DAVIS.** Through nearly five decades the Davis family has lived in Miami county. In Deer Creek township, people speak with respect and friendliness of these worthy people, who have prospered by their work on the land, have never neglected their duties as neighbors and citizens, and fill a place of usefulness and honor.

John W. Davis who has made his home in Deer Creek township since early childhood, was born in Miami county, Ohio, September 10, 1862, and was brought to Miami county, Indiana, by his parents in the spring of 1865. His father was Columbus Davis, a son of William Davis. After coming to Miami county the father taught school for awhile, later settled down to farming, and followed that vocation a number of years. The first land he occupied on coming to this vicinity, had on it a log house and stable, and he and his family lived a few years in primitive pioneer style. About 1866 they moved to the farm that is now occupied by John W. Davis. There the father built a house, and had his home there for a long period of years. In the spring of 1903 he moved to Kokomo, where the declining years of his life were spent. Columbus Davis was three times married. His first wife, Christiana, was the daughter of Frederick Cook. Christiana (Cook) Davis died on September 23, 1870, and on October 10, 1871, Columbus Davis married her



sister Catherine. Catherine Davis died in August, 1900. On November 20, 1902, Mr. Davis married Mary Dains.

The children by his first wife, besides John W., were: Martha J., who was born January 31, 1861, and died in October, 1862; Mary Catherine, wife of Moses Moss, born September 20, 1862; Branson E., born April 4, 1866, and married Anna Pollock; Ira Elwood, born May 29, 1868, and died August 20, 1886; and Isabelle, born August 25, 1870, and died October 8, 1870. By the second wife there were three children as follows: Welthy Della, born June 2, 1873, and married Oscar Reeves, and has one child Ellis Reeves, born November 26, 1900; Louie Arthur, born August 5, 1875, and died March 4, 1878; Fowler Herman, born September 21, 1877, and married Daisy Keppner.

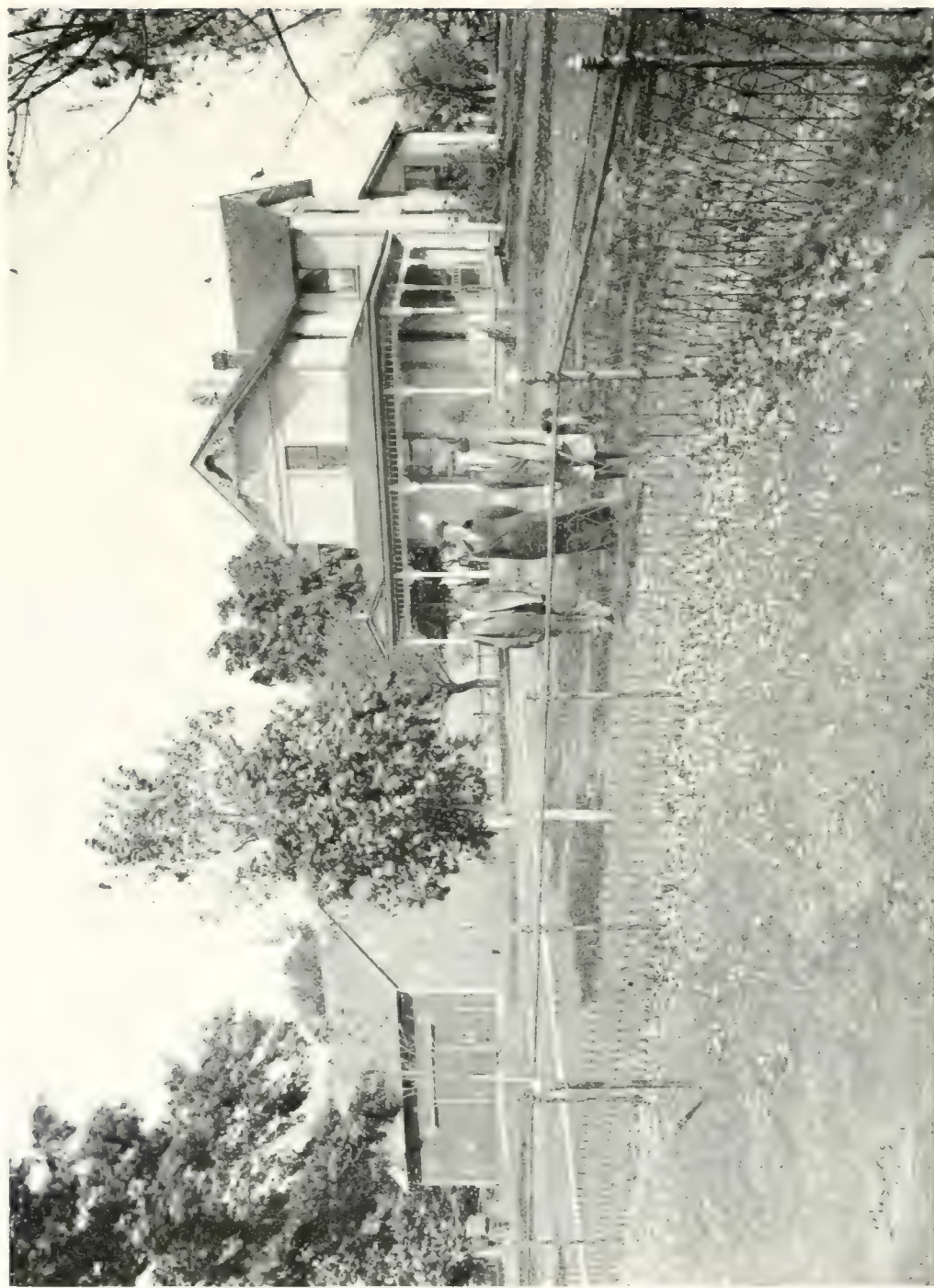
John W. Davis was reared on his father's farm and has remained here conducting its cultivation and in the capacity of active manager ever since his marriage. He has introduced a large number of improvements in the way of buildings, fencing, and modern methods of cultivation and crop management, and now owns one-third of the land, 190 acres. On September 21, 1902, John W. Davis married Amy Forth, a daughter of James and Sarah Rebecca (Lewis) Forth. James Forth was a son of Joseph Forth and Sarah Rebecca Lewis was a daughter of James A. Lewis. Mrs. Davis' father was a soldier in the Union army, serving in one of the regiments in the Virginia army, and after eleven months of active campaigning was taken sick and honorably discharged. Mrs. Davis' father lived at the Davis farmstead, where her mother died in 1897. There were two other children in the family; Ella, who married Ed. Burrous; and Eva, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Davis attend worship at the Christian church.

**ROBERT H. QUINN.** One of the citizens of Miami county who began their careers in log-cabin homes, labored with courage and industry to develop a wilderness of forest into a broad landscape of farms, and have subsequently reaped the rewards of such diligence in ample material prosperity is Robert H. Quinn, whose home has been in Miami county for nearly half a century, and who is proprietor and active manager of an excellent farm in Deer Creek township. He had always allied himself with those community activities which make better living conditions for all concerned, and successful himself has been pleased to see others prosper, and has often lent a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself.

Robert H. Quinn was born in Mercer county, Kentucky, November 29, 1855, a son of William and Elizabeth (Warner) Quinn. The Quinns are of Irish origin and the family has a record for longevity. William Quinn lived to be a hundred years old and on his hundredth birthday walked a mile and a half, from his home in Deer Creek township, to Bennett Switch. William Quinn grew up in Kentucky, and during his early life saw and was personally acquainted with such historic characters as Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and Andrew Johnson. Grandfather William Quinn lived to a still greater age, one hundred and seven years and at that age, still in possession of his faculties, walked up the steps of the old courthouse at Harrisburg, Kentucky, and cast his ballot. William Quinn, father of Robert H. was born in Mercer county, Kentucky, May 17, 1809, and lived there until the close of the Civil war, when he moved with his family into Indiana, landing in Johnson county with nothing but his household goods and twenty-five cents in money. Afterwards they came north to Tipton county and settled near Tipton and three years later moved into Miami county, where the parents spent the rest of their lives and died. They were married in







“PARK LAWN”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JACOB AARON

1853, spent more than half a century of happy lives together, and reared a family to occupy respected and useful positions in life. Elizabeth (Warner) Quinn, the wife of the late William Quinn, was born in Garrett county, Kentucky, where she spent her early years. She was a member of the New Light Church. Of their five children, all sons, four are still living, namely: Robert H.; Abram L., who married Hattie Herrell; John O., who married Alice Norman; and Perry P., who married Ida Oldham and lives in Deer Creek township. Another son, Levi, died several years ago. The farm on which the father and his family settled on coming to Miami county had a small house when he took possession and it was a large task that confronted him to establish a home. He improved and changed in many ways the farm, put up a good house and outbuilding, and the old home, remodeled so that it would hardly be recognizable as the old original dwelling, is still standing.

Robert H. Quinn was a boy of ten years at the time the family moved into the Hoosier State, and was just entering his teens when they settled in Miami county. In Miami county his years of boyhood and youth were chiefly spent and he has always considered this county his home. The farm on which he now lives was bought in 1904, and comprises sixty acres. A little distance south of his home place he is the owner of seventy acres. The land was all cleared when he bought it, but he himself has erected the buildings, and has applied himself with such thrifty energy and enterprise to his business that he is practically the architect of his own fortune. Previous to 1904 Mr. Quinn after his marriage lived on the Waisner farm. On October 31, 1882, Mr. Quinn was married in Pipe Creek township of Miami county to Miss Jennie Snyder, a daughter of Phillip Snyder. Phillip Snyder was one of the early settlers of Miami county, having taken up his residence here in 1847. He was born in North Carolina, April 16, 1826, and died December 4, 1909. Mrs. Quinn's mother, Nora Waisner Snyder, died April 15, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn have three living children, namely: Madge, born May 27, 1883, and the wife of William Zehring; June, born June 5, 1887, and the wife of Ross Peters; and Gladys, born October 15, 1895. Mr. Quinn has long taken an active interest in local affairs, has served as road superintendent, is a member of the Detective Association, and he and his wife are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church.

**JACOB AARON.** Among the substantial country homesteads of Deer Creek township that bear witness to the progressiveness and hard-working energy of their owners of the best is that of Jacob Aaron. Mr. Aaron has lived in this county twenty years, has earned all he has by following a system of industry, good judgment and fair dealing, and today owes no debts that he cannot pay, and has a wealth of esteem among his neighbors and friends.

Jacob Aaron is a native of Ohio, born in Preble county, August 9, 1845, a son of Jacob and Sarah (Rickard) Aaron. His parents were married in Preble county, and had a large family of children, his brothers and sisters in order of birth being as follows: Daniel, deceased; Susan, deceased; Kate; Joseph; Elizabeth, deceased; Lola, deceased; William; and Emma. In 1848 when Jacob Aaron was a child of three years his parents moved into the neighboring state of Indiana, and settled in Howard county. There the father passed the rest of his life, until he died, his age at death being seventy-one. The mother survived him several years and died in 1905 at a ripe old age.

Jacob Aaron remained in Howard county until 1893, and in the



meantime had gone through the usual routine of boyhood, including training in the district schools, and an experience of thrift and industry on the home farm. Coming to Miami county in 1893, he bought forty acres of land, and lacked eighty dollars of having enough to pay the entire purchase price. This land was then cleared but he put in many hard days work in fencing and ditching it and otherwise bringing it up to his standard of what a farm should be. Subsequently that land was traded for his present place of eighty acres. In 1902 he erected the buildings on this place, and has added to the value of the land by ditching and fencing, and today his farm ranks with the representative ones of his locality. Also Mr. Aaron owns property at Kokomo, having an acre and a half of land within the corporate limits of that city. Mr. Aaron has been twice married and is the father of four children by his first wife, whose maiden name was Amanda Sauers. They were married in September, 1879, and after more than a quarter of a century of happy companionship, she passed away March 27, 1906. The record of the children is as follows: John W., born June 28, 1880, married Miss Leah Davis; Daisy W., born July 14, 1883, and died February 27, 1904; Clarence M., born June 29, 1886, married Bertha Cain; Mary C., born November 20, 1892, and died at birth. On November 26, 1908, occurred the marriage of Mr. Aaron and Mrs. Anna Belt Pollard, a daughter of Joshua Belt. Although he grew up without schooling and never learned the art of reading and writing, Mr. Aaron has absorbed no small amount of education by the exercise of a vigorous native intellect, and by constant observation and contact with the world and with men. He believes in good schools, and has afforded his children good educational advantages. Besides rearing his own household he has given a home to several of his relatives' children, and sent them to school. He also educated and maintained in his home three children who are not related—Harry Griffey, who died at age of thirty-six; he was educated in the common schools, was a farmer and he wedded Miss Florence Wright on Christmas Eve of 1912 in Niobrara, Nebraska, and she is yet living. He had taken up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota and had ten acres in Florida. He died in February, 1913. He was a young man who was a credit to his foster parents. Maud Sinoker, the next foster child, whom they reared and educated, wedded James McCale, a successful agriculturist of Deer Creek. They have one little daughter. Noah Coulter, the third foster child, is now in the sixth grade and is grateful to his dear foster parents.

Mrs. Aaron is a native of Howard county, Indiana, born August 5, 1860, the fourth in a family of seven children, all daughters, born to Joshua and Elizabeth (Dewell) Belt. There are three of the daughters living at present, viz.: Rowena, wife of Aaron Stevenson, a resident of St. Elmo, Illinois, and a farmer. They have one son and are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Nora is the wife of James Morrison, a resident of Kokomo, Indiana, and a prominent attorney at law. They are members of the Methodist church and Mr. Morrison is very active in the church work. Anna, Mrs. Aaron.

Joshua Belt was a native of Ohio and traced his lineage to England. He received a good education in the common schools and was an agriculturist. He was a pioneer of Indiana and entered land from the government in Howard county. He was twice married. Both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and both died in Howard county. Mrs. Aaron is a genial, cordial lady and makes her pretty home a pleasant place for her family and her many friends. She received a good common school education. Her first marriage was with Mr. Charles L. Pollard, a native of "The Old Dominion" state of Virginia. There

were no children by this marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Aaron were married November 26, 1908, and they are citizens who stand high in the estimation and regard of all who know them. Their pretty homestead known as "Park Lawn," is the abode of peace and happiness.

**SOLOMON WAISNER.** While an education is an excellent possession, it is by no means a necessary adjunct to a man's equipment for the battle of life. Some of the most successful men in every walk of life have been and are those who were denied proper educational advantages in their youth. It is, of course, all the more to the credit of these men that they have been able to move steadily forward, guided mainly by their natural good sense and ability. Perhaps no occupation affords more or better opportunities for advancement on the part of the man of modest education than does that of farming, for the cultivation of the ground and an appreciation of its needs are gained through experience and good common sense. The man who has developed a good farm, put up substantial buildings and made his property into a valuable one has no reason to be dissatisfied with his progress even if he has not as large a stock of book learning as some of his neighbors. One of the men of Miami who is a self-made product and should be proud of the fact, is Solomon Waisner, the owner of a well-cultivated property in Deer Creek township. Mr. Waisner came to this locality when deer still roamed the woods and the virgin forests still covered the fields now abundant with flowing grain, and has done his full share in developing this country into one of the most productive sections of the State. He is a native of Indiana, born in Washington county, a son of Jacob and Mary (Russell) Waisner.

When he was still a child, Mr. Waisner's parents removed to Greencastle, Putnam county, and subsequently came to Deer Creek township, Miami county. Here the little family settled down among the wild animals which were still found in plenty, while a band of Indians also roamed the woods. The little log cabin, with its mud fire-place, was erected by his father. The lad was reared to the hard work of clearing and cultivating the wild fields, and his education was limited to a short attendance in the primitive subscription school of the vicinity, but he made the most of his opportunities and learned to read and write, and later observation and experience has given a good fund of practical knowledge. After his marriage he settled down to farming on his own account, and as the years have passed he has, from time to time, erected new buildings and added to his equipment, until now he has one of the valuable tracts of his township. He carries on general farming and raises some stock and his standing among agriculturists is high. He has ever been honorable in his business dealings, fairly earning and maintaining the respect and esteem of those with whom he has come into contact. Mr. Waisner is a faithful attendant of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He has served as supervisor of his township one term.

In 1857 Mr. Waisner was married to Marguerite Brasheer, daughter of Otho Brasheer, who came to Indiana from Maryland, and they had a family of ten children: Lafayette, who married Caroline Fitzpatrick; James, who died when young; Emma, who also died as a child; Laura, who married William Weir; Herbert, who married Lydia Herrell; Albert, who married Jane Weaver; Ida Belle, who married Omar Ewing; Martha J., who became the wife of Oscar Julius; Charles, who married Hattie Moore; and Alice, the wife of Allen Colver. Mr. Wais-



ner's first wife died, and he was married then to Miss Mary Waisner, daughter of Solomon Waisner, and to this union two children were born: Nora, who wedded Marvin Powell and they have three children, Ruth Mildred, Nina Alberta, and Berdadene May; and Lambert, who married Minnie Glasborn. Mrs. Waisner's parents are both deceased.

READ S. GARRITSON. That enterprise which has transformed all of Miami county from a wilderness into landscape of beautiful and valuable farms has a splendid example in the case of Read S. Garritson, whose home is in Deer Creek township. Mr. Garritson has lived in Miami county for more than sixty years, spent his early youth in a log cabin, is a product of the old-time district school, and for a long term of years applied himself with industry and judgment to the important business of establishing his individual prosperity and at the same time doing his share of the community work which falls upon every public spirited citizen. His efforts have been well rewarded and about ten years ago he was able to give up the heavy business of farming, and now lives at ease and in comfort in a fine country homestead, surrounded by his children and enjoying the affections and esteem paid to men of his integrity and worth.

Read S. Garritson was born in Clinton county, Ohio, August 10, 1848, a son of James M. and Esther (Frazee) Garritson. The name of the paternal grandfather was also Read Garritson. In 1850, when the son Read was two years of age, James M. Garritson and wife moved to Indiana, locating in Deer Creek township. There in the midst of the primitive forest his father built a log cabin, set about the work of clearing and developing the land and with the exception of about five acres, which was already cleared when the family moved there, the remainder was improved and developed almost entirely as a result of the toils of the father. In 1872 James Garritson sold his land in Miami county and went to Missouri, in which state he lived until his death, on December 10, 1893.

Read S. Garritson was brought up on the old family estate in Miami county, the farm where he spent his boyhood being situated just north of the one he now occupies. On reaching his majority he was married and then located on eighty acres of land just northwest of his present farm. There was a frame house and a stable on the place, but he tore both of them down and replaced them with good new buildings, and by vigorous work was able to clear about half of the eighty acres. That continued to be his home until 1894, in which year he moved to his present farm. Evidences of enterprise and improvement have followed Mr. Garritson wherever he has had his home. He has about one hundred and sixty acres of land, in his present farm, a comfortable dwelling affords a delightful place for his declining years, and his home was built into a modern residence a few years ago. When he first took possession of the place there was a brick house, and that is still standing, and is used as a home for the tenant. Ten years ago Mr. Garritson practically retired from the active work of the farm.

On November 11, 1869, Mr. Garritson married Miss Margaret Cotterman, who was a native of Montgomery county, Ohio, born September 9, 1850, a daughter of Andrew and Barbara (Stiver) Cotterman. Mrs. Garritson was but nine years of age when she came with her parents to Miami county, Indiana, the journey having been made in wagons in true pioneer style. Mr. Cotterman purchased his first one hundred and sixty acres of land in Deer Creek township, the same farm which now constitutes the home of Read S. Garritson, and there the pioneer became successful in his operations and accumulated in time four hundred



B. J. Harrison



Margaret Hamilton





acres, all in Deer Creek township. He lived an honorable life, and both he and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church. His political affiliations were with the Democratic party. Andrew Cotterman traced his lineage to the German, and the original spelling of the name was probably Kautermann. Mrs. Cotterman was also of German descent.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Garritson were born eight children, as follows: Lizzie; Emma, who died October 5, 1906; Effie, who is engaged in teaching in Peru; William, who married Jessie Wilson; Grace, who died on the 19th of November, 1907, at the age of twenty-seven years; Alice, whose death occurred on the 11th of November, 1877, when she was but seven years of age; and Louie and Lula, twins, who died respectively on March 4 and 6, 1890. Mrs. Garritson was called from this life on the 10th of July, 1913. She was a noble Christian woman, endowed with those womanly traits of character which adorn the true and faithful wife and the loving mother. Mr. Garritson and his children occupy a substantial place in the community and are honorable and honored citizens.

**WILLIAM DEMUTH.** Now past the psalmist's span of three score years and ten, William Demuth has spent all except the very earliest years of childhood in Miami county, and is one of the living citizens whose experience and knowledge cover almost the entire range of development and progress in this section of the state. He has had a career of worthy and prosperous effort as a soldier of the war, and has always identified himself with honorable activities in life.

Born in Montgomery county, Ohio, September 20, 1840, William Demuth was a son of John and Sarah (Shumacher) Demuth. Both parents were born in Maryland, whence they moved to Ohio at a very early date. The father was a millwright by trade, and in 1845, in the fall of the year, brought his family out to Miami county. He located in Peru, and subsequently took up his residence at Mexico in this county. The family accomplished its journey from Ohio in a canal boat which came down the Wabash and Erie Canal and landed the people and the goods in Peru at the place where the Chesapeake & Ohio railway depot now stands. Nearly all the country in this vicinity was then covered with dense woods and the Demuth family were here in time to bear their share of pioneer labors, and hardships. The father engaged in the mill business, operating a grist mill and a saw mill at the point on the Wabash River where the dam used to be. He built a mill for John Duckwall, and subsequently engaged in the manufacture of chairs, spinning wheels, and various articles of furniture to supply the miscellaneous needs of his patrons. He was frequently called upon also to manufacture coffins. Although an expert mechanic and an industrious man, John Demuth was not steadily prosperous in his milling experiences and finally lost all his money by these ventures. It was then that the children had to start to work to earn their own living. In those days the only provisions in the house frequently consisted of cornmeal, and with the exception of Sundays they never had any other kind of bread than corn bread. The facilities for education were likewise meagre and primitive. School was held only thirty or forty days in the year, and the school furniture consisted of slabs set on kegs about two feet from the floor with no backs to these rough seats, and greased paper covered up the spaces allowed for windows and all but shut out the light of day from the room. Mr. Demuth remembers few books in the schools of those days, and one of the early ones which he recalls was Ray's arithmetic, and also an elementary speller.



William Demuth and his brother John during their youth, before the war, worked together on a farm. William received wages of twenty dollars a month for his work. Soon afterward the war came on and in 1862 he enlisted in Company C of the Eighty-Seventh Indiana Infantry. He and his brother went into the service at the same time and the latter became an officer and made a distinguished record as a soldier. He went in as a private, was promoted to second lieutenant and when the first lieutenant of the company was killed in the battle of Missionary Ridge he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. He went on with the conquering army of Sherman, and Hooker, and Thomas, up to the very gates of Atlanta and was killed in front of that city on August 22, 1864. William Demuth served as a private and came out of the army a sergeant. He was in the war from 1862 until 1865, after the final surrender, and his regiment saw some of the hardest fighting of the entire conflict.

On returning to Miami county he began work for John Davison at eleven dollars a month. By dint of hard work and application he had acquired a quite thorough education and soon after the war was granted a certificate as a teacher. After working as a farm laborer for a time he attained a school, and was engaged in teaching for fifteen terms, these terms being continuous with the exception of one omission. In 1868 Mr. Demuth married Julia A. Henton, daughter of James D. Henton. They had one son, Frank E. Demuth, who is now a resident of Ellsworth, Kansas, engaged in the mercantile business.

For the last twelve years Mr. Demuth has been engaged in the contracting business in Peru. His present home is in south Peru, he built the home himself while he was still engaged in teaching school. Before locating in South Peru he was for some time engaged in teaching in Kansas. Mr. Demuth's wife died on February 4, 1913, when she was eighty-six years of age. Mr. Demuth is affiliated with the Masonic Order and also with the Grand Army of the Republic. For four years he was honored with the office of the justice of the peace and served as assessor for two years.

A. P. CLELAND. Long years of identification with the interests of Perry township have made the Cleland family one to be reckoned with in considering the citizenship of the community, and as a lifelong resident of the town and the representative of a family that was here established in 1830, it would be out of keeping with the spirit of this publication to fail to mention at some length those who still reside here and carry on their share in the business and other activities of the place.

A. P. Cleland, whose name introduces this review, was born in Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, on April 18, 1846, and is the son of Jonas and Mary Ann (Olmstock) Cleland. The mother was a daughter of P. Olmstock. It was in 1830 that Jonas Cleland came to this community from his home in the Empire state, and it should be mentioned in passing that he walked the entire distance, and did not consider it any undue hardship. He settled in Perry township almost immediately, and here continued to reside until his death. He purchased a small place and there lived until 1855, when he came into possession of the place where the subject now lives. This farm is represented by a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, and is one of the fine places of the town. It has been worked out of a state of wildness beyond compare into a productive and blooming series of fields, and is adorned today with fine and comfortable buildings that the senior Cleland erected while he was yet the master of the domain.







Pug, 114  
photo

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF "THE SHENANDOAH LODGE,"  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. JOSIAH ZEHRING

Jonas Cleland was a man of splendid integrity, and one who held and merited the respect and confidence of his fellow men to his latest hour. He was not permitted to serve in the Civil war, though he offered himself to the Union, an old injury to his arm being considered sufficient to unfit him for the rigors of war, and he was obliged to content himself at home, while his neighbors, and his young son, went away to bear their share in the conflict. At one time in his life, Mr. Cleland carried mail in his district. Mr. and Mrs. Cleland reared a family of six sons and three daughters, and the mother died in 1899, seven years after the passing of the father, who went to his long rest in 1892.

A. P. Cleland was reared in the community where he has passed his active life, and such education as he has was gained through the medium of the country schools. He was early trained in the work of the farm, and bore his full share in the strenuous task of making a real farm out of a tract of wild land. He is the possessor of that farm today, have succeeded to its ownership when the father died, and he has in recent years given a deal of attention to the breeding of Duroc Jersey hogs, and a number of ribbon winners have come from his pens. He has produced hogs that weighed as much as one thousand pounds, and in 1912 shipped something like \$5,000 worth of hogs. For the past thirty years he has been engaged in the manufacture of molasses and sorghum, and he also deals to some extent in hardware, so that his interests are plainly diversified, and such as to bring him into close touch with all classes in his community.

Mr. Cleland was a mere boy when he enlisted for service in the Eleventh Indiana Regiment and he was active in the ranks during 1864 and 1865, his services covering a year and a half. He took part in much of the activity of the army during those months and saw his full share of service as a gallant soldier.

Mr. Cleland is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his father, and he has taken an active interest in the work of that body during the years of his membership. He has never married, but his sister Catherine, lives with him and shares his fortunes.

Catherine Cleland married Anthony Wagner, who is now deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were born the following children who are now living Joseph, Jonas, Catherine, John, George and Mary. All of the children are married except George Wagner. Mrs. Wagner is the housekeeper for her brother and resides in Perry township, Miami county.

Both are highly esteemed in their community and enjoy the sincere regard of a wide circle of friends, who have known them long and are conversant with the many excellent qualities of heart and mind that dominate their lives.

**JOSIAH ZEHRING.** Though a resident of Miami county only since 1900, Mr. Zehring has made himself known as one of the most enterprising and vigorous farmer citizens, and has added prestige to a name long prominent in the south half of the county. His neighbors pay him their respects not only for his fine farm estate, but also for his genial personality, his helpful spirit in community matter, and his worth as an individual.

His fine farm of two hundred and thirty-eight acres lies in Deer Creek township, and is one of the estates well known throughout the countryside for its fertile acres, its excellent improvements and buildings, and the good management of its proprietor. Josiah Zehring was born in Montgomery, Ohio, May 20, 1845, a son of William and Susan (Feagler) Zehring. Various branches of this family have long been prominent



in Miami county, and more of the family history will be found on other pages. Josiah Zehring lived at home with his people until he was forty years of age. Going to Kokomo, he found employment as engineer in a local factory, and lived there five years. After that his industry was once more applied to farming on a place in Howard county, and he remained there until September, 1900, when he came to his present location in Miami county. Mr. Zehring has erected all the buildings on his farm with the exception of the dwelling house, and he has remodeled and improved that. In many ways he has given new value to his property and possesses a very comfortable and valuable home.

On November 17, 1886, Mr. Zehring and Miss Rosie Newman were united in marriage. Mrs. Zehring is a daughter of William and Ellen (McClurg) Newman. Her father, a native of Kentucky, came to Indiana, and settled in Marion county, in 1857. Her mother died when Rosie was quite small. To the marriage of Mr. Zehring and wife have been born four children, the family record standing as follows: Bessie Lee, born January 17, 1886; William E., born January 25, 1889; Lydia E., born June 25, 1894; and Walter P., born September 19, 1900. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Zehring is known as "The Shenandoah Lodge."

EUGENE MILLS. A resident of Miami county since 1891, Mr. Mills is a Union township farmer, who has brought a high degree of ability and progressive spirit to his community, and in his work. As a farmer he has won ample prosperity, and he has also been honored by election to positions of trust and responsibility to the township.

Eugene Mills was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, in Seward township, March 25, 1869, a son of William and Sarah V. (Secor) Mills. The maternal grandfather was Isaac Secor. Eugene Mills was reared and educated in Kosciusko county, and in 1891 moved from that county to Miami. The first location was two miles west of his present farm, and he remained there sixteen years after which he came to his present place. Since taking up his residence on his present farm, he has placed most of the improvements now to be seen there and which constitute it one of the best equipped rural homes in Union township. He improved and added additional rooms to the house, improved the barn and several other buildings, and all the group of home and farm buildings are situated on high ground well back from the road, making a very attractive home in its facilities and surroundings. Mr. Mills cultivates one hundred and twenty-six acres of land.

He is a member of the Baptist denomination. He has recently retired from the office of township assessor which office he held by successive elections for a period of eight years. In politics he was a loyal supporter of the Republican party up to 1912, in which year he joined the Progressives.

Fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees. In 1881 Mr. Mills married Miss Luella S. Friend, daughter of John Friend, who married Elizabeth Himelick. Their four children are named as follows: Cecil Leroy, born February 5, 1892; Arthur Russell, born August 24, 1893; Mary Lucille, born August 20, 1895; and Sarah Elizabeth, born April 30, 1905.

JOHN C. BARRON. As would be expected in a town of its size Bunker Hill has its full quota of successful and prosperous enterprises, headed by capable and progressive business men. Among the prominent merchants of Bunker Hill is John C. Barron, who for years has been in active business life at that place, and is owner and proprietor of an establish-

ment, whose patronage has been steadily increasing as a result of square and fair dealing. Mr. Baron, who began life with limited resources and advantages, has steadily advanced in the scale of material prosperity, and since coming to Bunker Hill has more than doubled the volume of business transacted through his store.

A son of John C. and Christiana Barron, John C. Barron was born at Logansport in Cass county, on July 3, 1873. On March 17, 1873, about four months before this birth, the father died, leaving his widow a family of five children to care for. The only other one still living is Emma, who married Jerry O. Ault of Bennett Switch. One son, Charles, died at the age of seven years, and Edna and Edgar died in infancy. John C. Barron, Sr., was the son of Jacob Barron of German descent, and a life long resident of Cass county. Christiana Barron was a daughter of Jonathan Novinger, also of Cass county. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Barron married Samuel McConnell, who died October 4, 1895. To that marriage were born two children, Thomas, who died in infancy, and Lulu, who married David Couk, and they live at Galveston.

Until he had reached the age of twenty, John C. Barron lived in his mother's home, which had been established in Miami county. On leaving home he went to Galveston, and as his early education has been much neglected, he there did what he could to supplement his early deficiencies, and at the same time prepared himself for a useful career. Mr. Barron while at Galveston learned the art of telegraphy, but never followed it to any extent. His experience in mercantile affairs was begun in the E. H. Thomas store at Galveston, where he remained until 1903. This experience convinced him that merchandising was his true vocation, and in 1904 he came to Miami county, and joined Mr. S. A. McIlvain in conducting a store at Bunker Hill. This firm continued to prosper until September, 1910, at which time Mr. Barron bought the interest of Mr. McIlvain, and the business is now known as the John C. Barron store. His place of business is one of the centers of the town and is well kept, with a modern stock of goods constantly changing, and the establishment reflects the thorough business character and principles of its proprietor.

Mr. Barron is a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias, in both of which orders he is popular and active. His religion is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, and at the present time he is superintendent of the Bunker Hill Sunday School. His interests in civic affairs is whole-souled, and especially in the cause of education. From December, 1905, to July, 1909, he served on the local school board, and did much to improve the local school facilities during that time.

On March 15, 1898, Mr. Barron was married to Miss May Fickle, a daughter of Wilson Fickle of Galveston, and a niece of David Fickle, now mayor of Logansport, and a prominent business man of that community. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Barron. Carmen was born February 22, 1899, and Cletus was born October 4, 1901. Both are living at home, and attending the local school. The Barrons enjoy a foremost place in the friendship and esteem of a large circle of Bunker Hill people, and in business quarters Mr. Barron is regarded as one of the most dependable and well established men of the community.

**JAMES E. STARKEY.** For the past twelve years James Starkey has been identified with the work of education in Miami county, for the past three years as teacher of the grammar department of the Bunker Hill schools. His career thus far has been marked by exceptional accom-



plishment in the field of education, and gives promise of much valuable social service in future years.

James E. Starkey was born in Franklin county, Virginia, on November 21, 1879, a son of James H. and Mahala Frances (Robertson) Starkey, and a grandson of Edward Starkey. Both grandfathers of James E. Starkey were among those who cast their lot for the "Lost Cause" under Lee and Jackson, and the great-grandfathers were soldiers of the Blue in the Revolution. James E. Starkey has a brother Marion Starkey, and a sister Julia, who married Arthur Hann, and lives near Onward, in Cass county. In 1886, when James E. Starkey was seven years of age, the family moved from Virginia to Miami county, and the parents are still living in Deer Creek township, near where they settled over a quarter of a century ago.

The early education of James E. Starkey was obtained in the schools of Bunker Hill and in the Marion Normal College. After his normal training he soon found opportunity for his chosen profession, and his work as a teacher was begun and continued for a number of years in Washington, Pipe Creek, and Jackson townships. Three years ago came his appointment to the Bunker Hill Schools. As an educator Mr. Starkey has done excellent work in all the communities served by him, he possesses the ability and knowledge, and high ideals which make the task of teaching one of the most important in the general field of social service. Mr. Starkey has also taken an active part in official affairs in his home town, having held the offices of town clerk and treasurer. As a side line or occupation during the vacation time, Mr. Starkey is engaged in bee-keeping, and markets his crop of honey by the ton.

In 1907 Mr. Starkey married Vera Crider, daughter of Cyrus Crider. One son was born to them, Ronald Wayne Starkey. Like his parents, Mr. Starkey clings to the Baptist religion and has membership in that church in Bunker Hill. Fraternally his relations are with the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are prominent and popular in Bunker Hill and lead in the best social activities of the town where they have a wide circle of friends.

**SYLVANUS SEE.** The title of Sylvanus See to a position among the representative men of Miami county, Indiana, rests upon the fact that through his activities he had added to the commercial prestige of the city of Macy, and that as a citizen he has ever faithfully and capably performed the duties which have devolved upon him. He has the added distinction of being a native son of the county, and is a member of a family which has contributed in no small manner to the growth and development of this part of the Hoosier State. Mr. See was born on his father's farm in Perry township, Miami county, Indiana, December 11, 1861, and is a son of William and Anna (Mulford) See.

William See, one of those who assisted in clearing Miami county land of its primeval forest, was a native of Pennsylvania, and when a young man came with his parents to Miami county, Indiana. He worked for the Leedys for a number of years and became widely known as a threshing machine operator. His first machine was known as a "carer," which had no strawcarrier, nor did it separate the wheat from the straw, and the grain had to be later cleaned by fanning mills. Later on he was one of the first to operate the old horse-power, tumbling-rod thresher, working all winter at this occupation. Having cleared up a farm or two for the Leedys, he acquired land of his own in Perry township, Miami county, buying at different times until he had over 160 acres. This he cleared, built on it a cabin and there he and his wife started housekeeping. Mr. See was married, when twenty-six







Respectfully yours,  
Ira A. Kessler

years old, to Miss Anna Mulford, and they became the parents of four children, as follows: Alice A., who married Simon Burkholder, who has since died; Lovanda, now Mrs. William H. Hughey; Sylvanus; and Ella E., who became the wife of Charles A. Morris. Both Mr. and Mrs. See died on the old home place.

Sylvanus See was reared on his father's farm, on which he worked during the summer months, his education being acquired in the meantime in the district schools during the short winter terms. When twenty-six years of age he was married, the date of this event being November, 1887, to Miss Mary E. Trout. Practically ever since his marriage, Mr. See has been engaged in the sawmill and lumber business at Macy. Here he has built up a good business by hard work and square dealing, and is now justly numbered among the substantial men of his community. Although he started his career in humble circumstances, with but little capital and influential assistance, he has steadfastly worked his way to a position of independence, and in the meantime has so conducted his operations as to win the utmost confidence of his fellow-citizens. Mr. See, besides handling and manufacturing lumber, carries a full stock of all kinds of building material, sash, doors, cedar shingles and portland cement, to meet all demands of builders.

Mr. See is a Democrat in politics, and has taken a keen interest in the affairs of his locality, being at present a member of the Macy town board. He is a member of the Masonic order and the Odd Fellows at Macy in which he has numerous friends, and he and Mrs. See hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, as do all of his children. The seven children of Mr. and Mrs. See are all living, and as follows: Goldie A., the wife of Charles Ambler, of South Bend, Indiana; Jennie, who married Scott J. Hurst and lives in North Dakota; Emerson W. W.; Georgie A., the wife of George Schoen, residing at Macy; Howard M.; Sylvia and Julius McDonald.

For his family's pleasure he has a large five passenger "Overland" touring car. He is a gentleman, cordial and genial in manner, and his many patrons always find it a pleasure to patronize him.

**HON. IRA A. KESSLER.** One of the oldest family names in Clay township is that of Kessler. It was established here back in the pioneer days, when Miami county was an expanse of woods and prairie, with few roads, with only the river and canal as a central transportation route, and with very few of the evidences of a superior civilization. In the third generation of the family in this county is Hon. Ira A. Kessler, who for a number of years has been identified with educational work, and who was honored a few years ago by election to the state legislature. The achievements of himself and other members of the family well entitle the name to distinction of a permanent memorial in this volume of Miami county biography.

Ira Albert Kessler was born in Clay township, Miami county, March 18, 1875, a son of Phillip and Christena (Hicks) Kessler. It was Grandfather Joseph Kessler who established the Kessler name in the vicinity, and his name as well as his works deserve the remembrance of later generations. He moved to Richland township in this county from Henry county, Indiana, in 1834. On coming here he entered land from the government, later selling it and entering a quarter section in Washington township near the Indian village on the north bank of Pipe Creek in 1839. No white men lived nearer than three miles, and young Phillip Kessler had no playmates except his younger brother, now Dr. James Kessler of Cherryvale, Kansas.



The Indians wanted to trade for young James Kessler in order that he might become chief of their tribe. Thus the Kessler family lived in the midst of Indians, while about their home wolves howled at night, and bear, deer, turkeys and other wild game was plentiful in the dense woods, and supplied a great part of the meat consumed on the table. In moving from Richland township, the only known road from that vicinity was over a portion of the now Mexico Pike. The road was constructed across the prairie, and was known as a corduroy road. Joseph Kessler, on making the journey with his family, stopped and helped to build the south end of that road in order that he might have the benefit of its use in reaching his new location. In 1849 he sold his Washington township farm, and entered a quarter section in Clay township. That land, taken up thus at an early date, and which his labors did much to develop, has ever since been the abiding place in Clay township, and is still known as the Kessler homestead.

Phillip Kessler, born in 1832, is a great hunter and fisherman, and one of the best known citizens of Clay township. At one time in early manhood he went hunting, and remained out all night, and the following morning. At the end of his excursion he had killed so much game, including coons, a deer, and turkeys, that he had to go home for a wagon to haul it in. Phillip Kessler married a daughter of Dr. William Hicks, who was a pioneer and long a respected citizen of Miami county. He bought the land at present known as the Daubenspec farm from Joseph Kessler, and afterward sold and moved to Miami village, where he spent the time except on Sundays in practicing as a physician. His Sundays were always given up to preaching the gospel, and he also served as postmaster for several years at Miami village. Phillip and Christena Kessler had seven children, two sons and five daughters. Of the daughters, a brief record is as follows: Elizabeth is the wife of P. A. Karnehm; Emma is the wife of B. T. Fivecoate; Mary, died in infancy; Dora is the wife of J. T. Anderson; Anna married and has two children, Paul and Philip Weaver. The other son, William Kessler is unmarried. The mother of this family died May 12, 1898.

Ira A. Kessler and a sister now reside at the old homestead in Clay township with their father. Among the possessions which Ira highly prizes is the first deed to the land, which was signed by Zachary Taylor, then president. It is a memento of early days, and one of the few documents to be found in this township of such date and signed by that old soldier president. For several years Mr. Ira Kessler has been engaged in teaching school, and is one of the best qualified educators in this county and was elected by the teachers of the county to serve as president of the Miami County Teachers' Association. At this writing he has charge of the school at Waupecong, in Clay township. Fraternally he is affiliated with Crescent Lodge, No. 280, F. & A. M., with Peru Chapter, No. 62, R. A. M., with Amboy Lodge, No. 664, I. O. O. F., and with the Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge No. 249 at Peru. In the lodge of Masons he has served as Master for seven consecutive years, and he has passed through the various chairs of the Odd Fellow Lodge with distinction. Mr. Kessler is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, although the Christian church has been the regular faith of the family through the different generations. Politically Mr. Kessler has for some years been one of the vigorous young leaders in the Republican ranks, and in 1908 was elected to the state legislature on his party's ticket by a majority of three hundred and twenty-one. Normally Miami county at that time had a Democratic majority of approximately five hundred, and his election was therefore in the nature of a high personal compliment to his citizenship and recognized ability. In the

sixty-sixth general assembly he served on several of the most important committees with distinction and assisted in framing several necessary measures which later became laws of the state, and for which he received many expressions of gratitude from all parts of the state. He rendered his constituents efficient service, and his record well entitled him to further distinction. Two years later he was again the choice of his party for the same office, but the Democrats then resumed their control, and succeeded by the narrow margin of thirty-eight votes. However, the public still watches and expects of him further achievements.

GEORGE E. LEEDY. One of the oldest and best known families of Union township is that of Leedy, which has been identified with this part of Miami county since the early days, and its members have always borne and performed their duties and obligations to both themselves and the community.

Mrs. W. H. Leedy, mother of George Leedy is one of the oldest residents of Miami county. She came here from New York State in 1839, having been born in that state July 6, 1834. Her father was George H. Hill, and her mother whose maiden name was Sarah Cool, was a daughter of Christopher of New Jersey. The family of Mr. Leedy first settled in Union township of Miami county. At that time the country was all in a woods, and the school she attended was two miles away. Her father and mother both died on the old homestead. She married William Harrison Leedy, who had the distinction of being the first white child born in Union township. Mr. Leedy for twelve years was known as a teacher in Union township, and also taught one year in Peru township. For fifteen years he served as justice of the peace, and was always a man of influence and value in community affairs. He had a good education for those times, although as a boy he had obtained instructions at great disadvantages, it being necessary to walk all the way from Deedsville to Peru. He went into the county seat to attend school on Monday, and returned home on Friday. Mrs. Leedy's mother's people are all buried in Union township. Their first home in this section was a log cabin, but as her father was a carpenter, he soon got the material and erected a frame house which was the first in that vicinity. Part of that house is still standing on the old farm. William H. Leedy died in 1879, in Deedsville. Mrs. Leedy survives him and is one of the venerable women of the county, aged 80 years. She saw the corner stone laid at the building of the first courthouse in Peru, and she remembers the town when the east end was nothing but a swamp. To remedy this condition she remembers how a great quantity of dirt was hauled down from the hills and piled upon the low ground in the east end of town. Her memory also goes back to include the days of Indians, in Miami county, a number of them having come about her father's home when she was a child. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Leedy were the parents of five children, whose names are as follows: Sevilla, who married Orlando Keever, and who is the mother of one daughter, Pauline; Olive, who married Levi Karns, and has the following children, Ethel Florence, married to Harvey Norris, Cleo Verle, married to Jacob Norris, and Celester; Mary M., who died at the age of twelve years; George Elbert, who married Adelia Sheaffer; and one that died in infancy.

Mr. George Leedy, who was born and reared and has spent all his life as a successful agriculturist in Union township, was married October 1, 1893, to Miss Adelia Sheaffer. The maiden name of her mother was Sarah Cowgill. Mr. Leedy and family have lived on their present home for more than twenty-five years. He and his wife are the parents of three children, namely: Harrison Keith, born October 26, 1894;



Charles Calvin, born August 14, 1897; and Sylvia Jane, born December 12, 1902.

Mr. Leedy and family attend the United Brethren Church. He is affiliated with the Masons at Macy and the Odd Fellows at Deedsville, and also the Ancient Order of Gleaners at Perrysburg, Ind. He is well known in public affairs in his local township, and has the complete confidence of his fellow citizens in his judgment and integrity. In 1908 he was elected to the responsible office of trustee, taking office in 1909, and his term being for four years. He has always been a staunch Republican until recently, and is now a Progressive. He has in charge a nice farm estate, formerly the old George Hill Farm, and has rebuilt the house and barn, and has done much to improve and make the place profitable.

**HON. BURTON GREEN.** A former representative from Miami county, in the 65th General Assembly, state legislature, Mr. Green is a lawyer by profession, but during the past eighteen years has been best known as a modern business farmer in Union township. He gave up the law on account of ill health, and in farming has found not only health, but prosperity above the average, and is one of the men who prove the fact which is not altogether appreciated that farming is not only one of the oldest and most honorable of professions, but also one which is productive in the sense which other lines of business and professional work are.

Burton Green was born in Fulton county, Ohio, December 15, 1853, a son of Alexander F. and Sophia Green, and grandson of William Green. The grandfather was a refugee from Ireland, having been a rebel against the British government. Mr. Green's mother was Sophia Gray, a daughter of William Gray, formerly from Virginia, and of Scotch-Irish descent. The mother's grandfather lived to the phenomenal age of one hundred and seven years.

Alexander F. Green, the father, was born in Vermont, and at an early age was left an orphan. He came out to Cleveland, Ohio, worked in a hotel, and afterwards married the daughter of the landlord. He then became a partner in the hotel, until it broke up, and from there moved out to Fulton county, Ohio, settling in the swamps. He possessed the capital of twelve hundred dollars, all the money he had in the world, and thus became one of the pioneers of a portion of Ohio, which had not yet been intersected by railroad lines. He lived there until the county became well settled, and was one of the prosperous farming communities of the state. He died at the age of eighty-four years.

Burton Green lived at home until he was twenty-one years of age, and had all the experience of a farmer, a fact which no doubt has contributed to his success after he left his profession and again devoted himself to the occupation of his youth.

In the preparation for the profession of teacher Mr. Green began in the public schools. He would feed cattle in the evenings and mornings and attend the day school, this being in the winter months. In the spring he passed his teacher's examination and then attended Bryan Normal School during the summer and fall, and taught school the following winter and at the expiration of his term, he had \$105 in cash and then entered the Ada Normal at Ada, Ohio, and spent four summers as a student and taught during the winters. Then he took the examination in the Junior Course and passed into the Senior Course of the Law Department of the University of Valparaiso. He had read law under L. H. Upham of Delta, Ohio, an able practitioner, who came from the

Old Bay State of Massachusetts. The estate of Mr. Green is known as "Green Hill Stock Farm."

From 1886 until 1891, soon after his graduation in law, he was engaged in practice at Rochester, Indiana, and though he succeeded in building up a good practice and was laying the foundations for a successful career in the law, his health would not permit of his further practice, and he then turned his attention to outdoor work. Mr. Green came into Miami county on the first of January, 1895, having a very small equipment of capital and possessions, and at that time settled on the farm which he now occupies. He first bought seventy acres of land and has since added to the original estate, until his farm now comprises one hundred and fifty-four acres. When he bought it, the land was run down, being low land, which was not adaptable to regular cultivation year in and year out, unless properly drained. Mr. Green has laid five thousand rods of tile drains, and has rescued his land from its original condition and now has one of the most productive farms in Union township. He has also improved the building, and has a very fine home. For some years he was engaged in raising stock, but of late has given almost his entire attention to the general farm crops.

Mr. Green from 1906 to 1908 represented Miami county in the legislature, and served both in the regular and special sessions of that period. At the special session the legislature passed the county option law, to which Mr. Green gave strong support both by vote and voice. He has held the office of notary public for a number of years. His church connection is with the Methodist, and he is a member of the Deedsville Lodge No. 650 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Green was married October 12, 1882, to Miss Lucetta Thornton, a daughter of Rev. P. J. Thornton and his wife, Anna Bretz. Mr. and Mrs. Green have no children of their own, but have given homes to three orphans, two girls and a boy. These children are Clarence and Susie Jones, who have lived at the Green home for four years, and have received advantages of school, as well as home training. The other child, who has been with Mr. and Mrs. Green since she was four years old, coming in 1895, is Lulu Grubb, but now goes by the name of Lulu Green.

PHINEAS B. CARTER, M. D. Among the medical men of Miami county who by reason of their skill and attainments have won positions of prominence in their chosen calling, Dr. Phineas B. Carter, of Maey, has the unqualified right to a leading place. Although a resident of this town only since 1909, his achievements have been such as to gain him the confidence of the general public and the high regard of his professional brethren. Doctor Carter is a native of the Hoosier State, having been born in Bartholomew county, December 8, 1874. Jonathan Carter, his father, has passed his entire life in agricultural pursuits, and is still a resident of Bartholomew county, while his mother, who was Diadama Amick, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, is now deceased. Phineas B. Carter is one of five children, of whom all are living except one.

In the public schools of his native county, Phineas B. Carter imbibed a love of learning, which impelled him to seek a liberal education. With this end in view he entered Franklin College, and upon completing an academic course in that institution adopted the vocation of educator, which he followed for upwards of seven years. At this time his inclinations led him to select the medical profession for his life work, and turned his attention while teaching to the scientific studies most consonant with that calling. After some preparation, he went to Chicago and entered the Illinois Medical College, being graduated therefrom in



1905, and succeeding this was for one year interne at St. Joseph's Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He subsequently spent eighteen months as House Surgeon in the Wabash Railroad Hospital, at Peru, and then for one and one-half years was engaged in a private practice at that place, his advent in Macy occurring in 1909, since which time he has been in the enjoyment of a large and representative professional business. Doctor Carter has been content to follow the beaten track in which physicians educated in the highest science of the regular school, and loyal to its ethics, seek rather to merit recognition by their skill and knowledge, than to gain notoriety by the more questionable methods by which less meritorious practitioners find a short cut to fame and fortune.

On June 3, 1908, Doctor Carter was united in marriage with Miss Hazel Armstrong, of Peru, Indiana, and they have two children, Ruth, aged three years, and Calvert A. born in 1913. Doctor Carter is a Republican in his political tendencies, but has not sought preferment in matters of a public nature, having been content to devote his undivided attention to his profession. In addition to being a valued and interested member of the various medical organizations, he enjoys the privilege of membership in the Masons, the Odd Fellows and other fraternal orders.

**REV. JOSEPH R. CONNER.** The individual who is forced to fight his own battles in the world, to educate himself and to force an entrance through the gate of success prizes more highly that which he wins than one to whom all things come by birth or inheritance. Material success is something worth seeking, but there is a still higher aim than that, and the man who is able to draw others from sin to righteousness becomes a potent factor for good in his community. Among the men of Miami county who have been the architects of their own fortunes, and who have not alone won material prosperity but who have risen to a high place in the esteem of their fellow-citizens because of their labors in the cause of Christianity stands the Rev. Joseph R. Conner, of Allen township. He was born near Stockdale (since obsolete), Miami county, Indiana, October 10, 1858, and is a son of J. M. and Nancy (Norman) Conner.

J. M. Conner migrated to Miami county, Indiana, when a lad with his parents, settling near Pettysville, during pioneer days. There he grew to manhood and married Nancy Norman, whose people were among the earliest settlers to locate within the present confines of Miami county. J. M. and Nancy Conner had two sons: Joseph R. and Lincoln E. The mother died in Indiana, and the father, remarrying, moved to Michigan, where he passed the remainder of his days.

Joseph R. Conner has always made his home in Miami county. His educational advantages in his youth were decidedly limited, as his mother died when he was eight years old, and he lived with his mother's parents until he was about thirteen years of age, and from that time his life was passed virtually among strangers and without the loving care and guidance that is considered the privilege of childhood. This lack of education was realized by Mr. Conner in later years, but it was not until long after his marriage that he was able to attempt to remedy it. When his first child was ten years old, he accompanied her to the district schools, and supplemented this by a term in the Northern Indiana Normal School, at Valparaiso. In his youth his opportunities for culture of a genuine sort were also limited, but now one cannot be in his presence long before realizing that he is a man of intellectual attainments, general information and culture. He was brought up in the hard







*Mrs. G. L. Atkinson      O. L. Atkinson*

work of clearing and cultivating the land among the farmers with whom he resided, and worked out by the month until attaining manhood.

On May 27, 1880, Mr. Conner was united in marriage with Mary A. Seidner, daughter of Isaiah and Julia (Landis) Seidner, her father being one of the old pioneer educators of Miami county. Mrs. Conner is a native of Miami county, Indiana, born February 7, 1862, and she was the only child born to her parents. Both father and mother are deceased. Mrs. Conner was educated in the common schools and she is vice president of the Home Missionary Society.

After his marriage, Mr. Conner began farming for himself, and he was thus employed for ten years, meeting with a large measure of success. He was converted to Christianity in the fall of 1879, in the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal church, and about nine years later was licensed to exhort and the quarterly meeting following this was licensed to preach. He was engaged in preaching the gospel for the four years that followed, being stationed at Atwood, Mount Aetna, Macy and Burket, but owing to family circumstances he then returned home to the farm, and has been engaged in agricultural pursuits ever since, although he still keeps up his ministerial work. He is the owner of 142 acres of valuable land, located in Allen township, and here he has made excellent improvements. He has endeavored to live an upright Christian life, to rear his children in the same way, and to leave to those who come after him the priceless heritage of an honored name.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner have had five children, namely: Etta, who married Dell Kessler, of Rochester, Indiana; Franklin and Orin, who are deceased; and Lawrence and Merrill, who reside with their parents and attend the public schools.

The homestead of Rev. and Mrs. Conner is known as "Englewood."

**ORIE C. ATKINSON.** Probably no citizen of Amboy has been more intimately connected with the financial and commercial interests of the town, and it is only expressing the opinion of his fellow citizens, when it is asserted that no one has done more to upbuild the little city on its present basis of prosperity, than Orie C. Atkinson, cashier of the Miami County Bank, and for many years one of his community's most prominent and influential men. A native son of Indiana, he has since his youth been identified with banking, and his entire career has been one of steady and well merited advancement.

Orie C. Atkinson was born in Union county, Indiana, May 5, 1872, and is a son of Charles James and Melissa Matilda Atkinson. His grandfather, Milby Atkinson, had the following children: Charles, who married Elizabeth Cram; John, George, Julia A., who married Jerry J. Lynch; Nancy, who married David Grey; Isaac, Samuel, Mary, who married a Mr. Dale; and Betsy, who married a Mr. Baker, and died many years ago in the east. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Melissa Atkinson were as follows: Erastus, who married Mary Fields; Jesse D., who married Martha Radish; James W., who married Susan Miller; John, who married Mary Fiffin; Mary E., who married A. R. Lockridge; Elizabeth J., who married H. Y. Miller; Charles, who married Hulda Morris; Catherine, who died at the age of four years; Isaac H., who married Isabella Burris.

In 1893 Orie C. Atkinson was married to Miss Hattie I. Roberts, daughter of Morris and Elizabeth (McKee) Roberts. To that union were born four children: Eva, born October 14, 1894; Charles Maurice, born December 27, 1897; Herschel, born April 26, 1903; and June Ray, who died in infancy in 1908. On June 26, 1908, Mrs. Atkinson died,



and in July 1909, Mr. Atkinson married for his second wife Miss Nettie Celeste Feller, daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Feller.

Orie C. Atkinson commenced his educational training in the schools of his native county, and was sixteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Amboy. Here he completed his schooling and from the Amboy high school went in 1892 to a position in the Upland Bank. The Upland Bank gave him a long and thorough experience in banking affairs, and he remained there until he was given the position of assistant cashier in the Albany State Bank, a little more than four years later, in 1896. Mr. Atkinson was identified with the Albany State Bank until 1900, when he went out to Kingman, Kansas, and with J. C. Paxton, one of the directors of the Albany State Bank, organized the Kingman State Bank. Mr. Paxton had had no previous experience in banking, except as a director, and practically the entire business of organization devolved upon Mr. Atkinson. In 1902, having sold his stock in the Kingman State Bank, Mr. Atkinson became the organizer of the Miami County Bank, of which he has been cashier and full manager for more than eleven years. He has popularized this institution, has wisely directed its policies, and at this time it is known as one of the most substantial banking institutions of Miami county.

While it is as a banker that Mr. Atkinson has longest and most prominently been identified with the various communities in which he has lived, the little city of Amboy must recognize him as having been to no small degree the father of its present prosperity. A great deal of history has been made at Amboy since 1902. At that time it was a community with very little trade, and business interests were maintained in a sort of routine fashion, merely keeping up with the demands of a sluggish local trade. Nearly all the stores were established in shabby wooden buildings, and the stocks of goods were both small and inadequate. Mr. Atkinson had not been in town long before the citizens discovered that a very vital influence had suddenly been projected into their midst. The first important move here was the organization of a commercial club, and as soon as the merchants and other business men got together and began talking things over, there was a general ambition for better buildings and larger stocks of goods. One of the older residents who at once took a hand in the rejuvenation of the town was Dr. J. A. Baldwin, and others quickly fell into line until Amboy became a synonym for business enterprise, and at the present time it is regarded as one of the best improved towns municipally speaking, and for its size has no peer as a business center in the state. It was due to the personal activity of Mr. Atkinson that the present publisher of the Amboy *Independent* established that paper as a weekly issue, and the presence of a local newspaper has furnished the merchants and other business men a medium of reaching the citizens in the village and surrounding community, and has not been without an important effect in stimulating trade and industry. At the same time it is of interest to note the proprietor of the paper, has shared in the general prosperity of the community. These splendid results have been accomplished by an enthusiasm and cooperation stimulating the entire body of citizenship, and it is the community as a whole which must be given credit for the concrete results. However, no one man has done more to initiate the various movements which have led to these results than Mr. Atkinson. He came to Amboy and supplied the stimulus of a broader outlook and of his personal example just at a time when it was most needed, and his fellow citizens are glad to give him credit for the activities which have been so beneficent in making Amboy what it is today.

A consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Atkin-

son has served as trustee for a number of years and is now financial steward of the Amboy church. He has always stood for the highest ideals and principals of the Christian life, and since he cast his first vote his support has been given to the Prohibition cause and its party. He is also well known in fraternal circles, being a member of Converse Lodge, No. 601, A. F. & A. M., and Amboy Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Atkinson has withheld his support from no movement which has promised to benefit his community in any way, and is always depended upon for counsel, advice and leadership in affairs of an important nature. Of a genial nature, easy to approach, he has made a wide acquaintance here and no citizen stands higher in the general public opinion.

JOHN B. PETERS, M. D., of Macy, is a native of Augusta county, Virginia, his birth occurring July 28, 1851. Dr. Robert J. D. Peters, his father, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, October 14, 1829, and was a descendant of English ancestry, the advent of the family in this country occurring during the colonization of the Old Dominion State. As far back as it is possible to trace the practice of medicine has been a family inheritance. The father of Dr. Robert J. D. Peters and his grandfather were doctors, and Dr. Charles H. Peters, his brother, was a member of the Board of Surgeons who were on the commission appointed by Governor Wise to conduct the autopsy on some of those who participated in the John Brown raid.

Dr. Robert J. D. Peters was a graduate of the Winchester Medical College, but previous to this had graduated from the Charlottesville University. He began his medical career at Greenville, Tennessee, the home of President Andrew Johnson, with whom he was personally acquainted. A man of strong convictions and decided views, he was an advocate of the Union at a time and in a locality when it was as much as a man's life was worth to announce his views. He married in Randolph county, Virginia, in 1850, Mary Jane Kettle, who had five brothers in the Confederate army, three of whom sacrificed their lives to the "Lost Cause." Probably it was owing to a loss of practice in Tennessee that led to Dr. Peters removing to the North in May, 1861. His father, Dr. John Peters, served under General Scott in the War of 1812, and was wounded at the battle of Lundy's Lane. At the time of the family's removal North, in 1861, they traveled by wagon, and Dr. John Peters was one of the party. They were generally recognized as refugees and had numerous wordy encounters with Southern sympathizers. At Wythville, Virginia, they only escaped violence by Dr. John Peters making use of the distress sign of a secret organization of which he was a member. The family did not tarry long in Virginia, but moved to Paris, Illinois, and from there to Stoutsville, Fairfield county, Ohio. Dr. John Peters eventually returned to Virginia and there died at Grafton in 1876.

Dr. Robert J. D. Peters practiced his profession at Stoutsville, Ohio, some eight years, removing to Indiana in 1871, and locating at New Waverly, subsequently locating at Star City, and from there, in 1883, coming to Macy, Indiana, where he died July 26, 1894. He was a man of marked physical characteristics. Some five feet, eleven and one-half inches in height, he was molded along athletic lines. Fair of complexion, blue-eyed, and a man of superior mental attainments, he attracted attention wherever he went. In politics he was a Republican; in religion a Methodist. As a physician he was greatly above the average. Impulsive in a way, he was ever ready to lend his aid in any manner to those needing assistance. While not an active church worker,



he practiced real Christianity, more, perhaps than many who professed the loudest or prayed the longest. He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, and eight now living.

Dr. John B. Peters, of Macy, made his home with his parents during their removal to the North, and left home when the family had located at Star City, Indiana. He received his literary education in the public schools and high schools and his medical training at the Ohio Medical College. He began practicing at Miamitown, Indiana, in 1871, later locating at Fulton, where he was married May 15, 1885, to Mary A. Hanson, daughter of John Hanson, a soldier of the Twelfth United States Infantry during the Civil War, with a record of eighteen battles to his credit on his discharge papers. In the spring of 1887 he located at Macy, Indiana, and has practiced his profession here ever since. Two children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Peters: a daughter that died in infancy, and a son, Robert J. D., named after his grandfather. This son is a student at the Indiana State University, where he has made an enviable record. He has three "A's" to his credit on all of his studies, an honor of the highest kind, and has attained a fellowship in the university which carries with it a salary as long as he is connected with the institution. He has taken up the study of medicine and is now nearing his graduation.

Doctor Peters is a Prohibitionist in politics, is a member of the Masonic, Odd Fellow and other orders, and he and his wife are members of the Disciples church. He also holds membership in the Miami County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and takes a keen and active interest in the work of these organizations.

**ALVIN SEIDNER.** The connection of Alvin Seidner with the farming and building interests of Miami county, has made him widely known among the citizens of this section who have done so much to advance the great growth and development that has marked the county, and more especially Allen township, during the past several decades. Although he has been an extremely busy man, with large private interests, he has found time to devote to the needs of his adopted locality, and for several years served as county commissioner. Mr. Seidner was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on his father's farm, August 15, 1849, one of the six children, all still living, of Jacob and Elizabeth (Anglemyer) Seidner, both of German ancestry. The first wife of Jacob Seidner having died, he was married (second) to Mrs. Mary (Morris) Barnes, and they became the parents of four children.

During the fall of 1854 Jacob Seidner and his family immigrated to Miami county, Indiana, and located in the woods in section 16, of Allen township. Mr. Seidner first secured a tract of eighty acres of land, on which was located a log house, and for this property he paid \$700. Following Mr. Seidner came his parents, Jacob Seidner and wife, two years later, and here both of the parents and grandparents of Alvin Seidner spent the remainder of their lives in clearing and cultivating farms.

Alvin Seidner was reared to manhood on the farm which he now owns, and as a boy attended the old-fashioned district schools. When a young man he learned the trade of carpenter, and began to follow that occupation in 1867, since which time he has erected structures all over Miami county, house and barn building having received the greater part of his attention. An able mechanic, he is also known as a man of the strictest integrity, at all times living up to the letter of his con-

tracts, and his work may be absolutely depended upon. While working at his trade, he has not neglected his farming operations, and is now the owner of 160 acres of some of the best farming land to be found in Allen township.

Mr. Seidner was married December 13, 1874, to Miss Alice Tracy, daughter of Samuel S. Tracy, who died in March, 1905. To this union there have been born three children: Minnie, who died when three months old; Rose, who is the wife of Daniel J. Dielman; and Blanche, now Mrs. Jesse Barnheisel, a resident of Perry township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Seidner are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. A stalwart Republican in politics, Mr. Seidner served for some time as township assessor, and in 1900 was elected a member of the board of county commissioners. At the conclusion of his term he was renominated by his party, but was defeated at the polls in a close struggle.

EBENEZER H. SUTTON, M. D. It would be a difficult task to find among the pioneers of Indiana a citizen whose career exerted a greater influence upon his community than that of the late Dr. Ebenezer H. Sutton. A physician at a time when practically the only roads were Indian trails, he devoted his life to his honored calling, and as a firm believer in the future of his State invested in and developed large tracts of land, with the result that he became one of the most substantial men of his locality. Ebenezer H. Sutton was born near Connersville, Fayette county, Territory of Indiana, September 21, 1814. He was of English ancestry, the progenitor of the family coming to America with the Puritans and being related to Governor Carver, also to Colonel Wadsworth of Charter Oak fame. Until later generations the Suttons, for the most part, resided in the New England States and were farmers. The father of Doctor Sutton came to Indiana when it was still a territory and practically in a primitive condition.

Ebenezer H. Sutton grew up amid pioneer surroundings on his father's farm in Fayette county, and his literary education was acquired before the firelight of the old fireplace in the log cabin home. He read medicine at Indianapolis, and aside from attaining a large general practice was noted as a surgeon, practicing for some time with Doctor Wishard, at Indianapolis, and subsequently with Doctor Fitch, at Logansport. He was a believer in the future value of Indiana realty, and entered large tracts of land in various localities from the government. At one time he owned a large cranberry marsh in Kosciusko county, from which, in seasons, he would harvest several thousand bushels of berries and these he cleaned by specially constructed devices of his own invention. Doctor Sutton entered land from the government at Gilead, and there resided and practiced his profession during the Indian days, traveling by Indian trail to patients all over this locality. Later he practiced at Akron, and from that place came to Macy (then Lincoln), in January, 1875. Here he continued to reside until his death, which occurred November 4, 1890. He was a graduate of old Rush Medical College. A consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he was an active worker therein and a liberal contributor to its movements. For many years he was connected with the Masonic fraternity, and was one of the organizers and first members of the Miami County Medical Society.

Doctor Sutton was married in Clay county, Indiana, June 23, 1839, to Miss Laura Ann Sutherland, who was born at China, Genesee county, New York, December 12, 1823. She removed with her parents to Logansport, in 1832, and there some four years later she united with the



Methodist Episcopal church. For three-quarters of a century Mrs. Sutton served her Master, and her acts and good deeds will always live in the memory of those who knew her. She was at all times ready and anxious to assist in any good work, whether in the church or in her home. Her death occurred at her home in Macy, March 1, 1912. Ten children were born to Doctor and Mrs. Sutton, of whom four are living, all residents of Macy: Mrs. Maria Day, Mrs. Corinna Keesecker, Mrs. Julia Day and Eddie B.

EDDIE B. SUTTON, the youngest of the children of Dr. Ebenezer H. Sutton, is one of the progressive and enterprising business men of Macy. He was born on the home farm in Kosciusko county, Indiana, August 8, 1863, and following the acquiring of his education in the common and county normal schools was engaged in teaching for seven or eight terms. Succeeding this for one year he acted in the capacity of letter carrier from the post office at Peru, and then engaged as a salesman of farming machinery, an occupation which he followed for seven years. In 1903, realizing the need of telephone service in Macy, he organized the company and built the plant here, which is now giving the community excellent service. A Republican in his political views, Mr. Sutton was elected Trustee of Allen township in 1908, and has continued to act in this capacity to the present time. His fraternal connection is with Lincoln Lodge No. 523, F. & A. M. Mr. Sutton is the father of one daughter: Erma, who is now the wife of Everett Flaughner, manager of the Furnaces Ice Cream Company, at Danville, Illinois.

LEVI SNOWBERGER. In naming the representative citizens of Miami county, no list would be complete that did not make more than passing mention of Levi Snowberger, one of the most progressive and enterprising agriculturists of Allen township and one who has prospered in business, and has earned success by his enterprise, natural sagacity, and well-established reputation for integrity and uprightness. It is a pleasure to bear testimony to his real worth, a testimony that unmistakably voices the sentiments of the entire community. Levi Snowberger was born in Huntington county, Indiana, July 29, 1860, one of the six children, four now living, born to Jacob and Mary (Paul) Snowberger.

The father of Mr. Snowberger, a farmer, passed away in 1861, and the widow was married to George Craig, of Henry county, Indiana, in 1872, and died in 1890, in Henry county. Levi Snowberger was but fifteen months of age when his father died, and he lived with his mother until he was nine years old, and with a married sister for two years after. Following this he lived with his mother and step-father until he attained his majority. His youth was passed in assisting his brother-in-law and step-father, and his educational advantages were decidedly limited, the greater part of his training being secured in the school of hard work. However, he made the most of his opportunities, and succeeded in acquiring an ordinary education, which has since been supplemented by years of observation, reading and practical experience. He was trained thoroughly in agricultural pursuits, and it was but natural that he should adopt the vocation of farmer upon reaching his majority. Since his marriage, he has located on his present property, a well-cultivated tract of 155 acres in Allen township, which he devotes to general farming and stock raising. He has met with success in raising registered Short Horn cattle, and is widely known as a skilled judge of live stock. Mr. Snowberger is progressive in his ideas and methods, using the latest machinery and each year adding to his

equipment and buildings. He bears the reputation of a thorough man of business and as one whose connection with only strictly legitimate business measures has gained him the confidence of his associates.

On December 29, 1881, Mr. Snowberger was united in marriage with Miss Alfaretta McKillip, daughter of David and Amanda (Fouts) McKillip, of Allen township, Miami county, the former for a quarter of a century a well-known and successful farmer of this section. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Snowberger: Ethel, who died when six years of age; one child who died, unnamed, in infancy; and Garnet. Mr. Snowberger is a Republican in his political tendencies, but has been too busy with his agricultural affairs to think of entering the public arena as a seeker for preferment. However, good men and measures have always had his stalwart support and he has shown a commendable interest in everything that affects the welfare of his township and county. His religious belief is that of the Christian church.

DAVID MCKILLIP. Among the honored citizens of Miami county, none are more worthy of being commemorated in its annals than the late David McKillip, whose death occurred June 9, 1906. For more than a quarter of a century he lived within its borders, during which time he was a prominent factor in its agricultural, social and civic affairs, fairly earning a reputation for honorable dealing with his fellow-citizens to such a degree as to make his name a synonym for all that was honorable in business or correct in morals. He was descended from a race that has given to America some of her most successful men in every walk of life.

David McKillip was born June 5, 1837, in Union county, Indiana, and was the seventh son in a family of eleven born to Alexander and Elizabeth (Skillman) McKillip. His father, Alexander McKillip, was a participant in the War of 1812, and served under Commodore Perry in the naval engagement on Lake Erie. He was one of the four men who first boarded one of the English vessels, and for this was awarded, with the other three, a silver medal. This medal was given by the State of Pennsylvania, and bore this inscription: "Presented by the State of Pennsylvania in testimony of his patriotism and bravery in the naval action on Lake Erie, September 10, 1813." On the opposite side was engraved a portrait of Commodore Perry, above which was his name "Oliverius Hazard Perry" and underneath the famous dispatch: "We have met the enemy and they are ours." Andrew McKillip was a native of Scotland and emigrated to America when fourteen years of age. He located in Union county, Indiana, in his later life, and there died about the year 1847.

David McKillip was reared to manhood on the P. Lybrook farm in Union county, Indiana, and received his educational training in the district schools of his day. In 1858 he moved to Henry county and there learned the cooper's trade, at which he worked but about two years, then learning the carpenter's trade. He was so employed for a number of years, but in 1870 moved to Delaware county and engaged in farming, subsequently went to Henry county, and in August, 1880, finally located in Allen township, Miami county, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life.

On June 16, 1861, Mr. McKillip was married to Miss Amanda Fouts, who was born in Henry county, Indiana, April 16, 1840, and died June 8, 1887. They became the parents of two children: Alfaretta, who married Levi Snowberger, a successful farmer of Allen township; and Forest, who died in infancy. Mr. McKillip was one of the foremost men of Allen township during his residence here. In politics an out-



spoken Republican, he served Allen township as trustee, having been elected to that office in 1886. He and his wife were faithful members of the Christian church, ever living up to its teachings. A representative of the best class of Miami county's citizenship, Mr. McKillip inherited a large amount of the shrewdness, thrift and industry of his Scotch ancestors. His life was one of hard work interspersed frequently with good deeds, and in his death his community lost a good and public-spirited citizen, his family a kind and indulgent father, and his acquaintances one who could ever be depended upon to be loyal to his friends.

**EZEKIEL V. ROBINS.** Born in the township of his present residence and on the farm which he now occupies and cultivates in Union township, E. V. Robins represents a family which has been identified with Miami county since the first decade of its civilized history. His people have been a substantial worthy stock, worthily represented in all the relations of life, and their work and influence has been factors for good in the community.

E. V. Robins was born in Union township, February 14, 1842, and has himself witnessed practically every important phase of development and improvement in this county. His father was Samuel C. Robins and his grandfather was Ezekiel Robins, the latter a minister of the gospel who died at the advanced age of eighty years. The maiden name of the mother was Catherine (Ryan), whose people came from Ireland, and she was born in the state of New Jersey. There were seven sons and two daughters in the family of Samuel C. Robins and wife, and besides Ezekiel V. Robins; they are mentioned as follows: Richard, Morris, Edward, Thomas Ryan, James, Samuel, Margaret, who married Albert Deeds, after whose father the town of that name was named; and Catherine, who married Joe Brower. The mother of these children died in 1851.

Samuel C. Robins, the father, came to Miami county in 1837 from the state of New Jersey. At that time Peru consisted of a few log houses, and all the country was practically a wilderness with only here and there the homestead and clearing of some settler. There were practically no roads about the country, and all transportation was over rough trails blazed through the woods. The family came to Miami county chiefly by the water route, by way of the great lakes and thence down the Wabash and Erie canal to Peru. No railroads were built for a number of years after the Robins family settled in Miami county. It is a matter of considerable interest that Samuel C. Robins operated one of the first locomotive engines ever brought to the United States, and the old engine was later on exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair. The father bought his first land at one of the periodical land sales held in Delphi, and was one of a great number of settlers drawn from all parts of Indiana who attended at this event. Besides farming he was employed at various other pursuits, having a special skill in handling tools. Afterwards he bought the farm on which his son E. V. Robins was born and now resides. On this place he put up a house which had two stories. The neighbors thought a two-story cabin was very pretentious, and that was almost the limit of building luxury for several years in that locality. Afterwards he replaced his first log house with a frame building, and provided a comfortable home for his family. Nearly all the land on the homeplace was cleared by members of the Robins family, and the father continued to live there until his death at the age of fifty-six years. He was a man of great judgment and looked forward to the time when all the lowland would be reclaimed by ditch-

ing and drainage. He avoided offices of every kind, and lived a quiet and simple life, though with much service to the community.

Mr. E. V. Robins lived at home in the place which has been described, attending the local school, and in 1861 married Miss Esther A. Edwards, a daughter of Elias and Maria Edwards. Their marriage was celebrated in Union township. They are the parents of five sons and one daughter, whose names are as follows: Richard A., who married Rosie Dowd; Ida May, who married Brinston Dowd; Charles C., who married Anna Girard, daughter of Edward Girard; Samuel F., who married Ida Cloud, a daughter of George Cloud; Merrit E., who married Clara McGuire, a daughter of Simon McGuire; Ray M., who married Sella Kershner, a daughter of James Kershner. Mr. E. V. Robins has spent all his life on his present home farm, and his efforts have been rewarded with substantial prosperity. He and his family are members of the Methodist church, and for one term he served in the office of county commissioner, from 1892 to 1894.

**TRUMAN KOTTERMAN.** Of the younger generation of Union township progressive farmers and citizens, Truman Kotterman is a conspicuous example and belongs to a family which has been in Miami county from the days when the forest covered all the fertile soil, and his grandfather, as well as his father, were among those settlers who had to undertake the heavy labor of clearing off the woods before they could plant their crops.

Truman Kotterman was born in Richland township, Miami county, January 6, 1876, a son of Aaron and a grandson of Michael Kotterman. The maiden name of the mother was Mary Olds, who was a daughter of John Olds. Aaron Kotterman, the father, came to Miami county in 1854 from Franklin county, Ohio, where he was born. He married in Richland township of this county. Beginning with thirty acres of land, he was a prosperous and substantial farmer, who gradually increased his holdings, until he had one hundred acres. The farm had first been owned by the grandfather, Michael Kotterman. Aaron Kotterman made that his home until his death. It was timberland when first occupied, and an old Indian trail was once a prominent feature through the woods, and some of the old settlers can still trace its course across the Kotterman farm. There was a log cabin during the early history of the Kotterman family, and in that the grandparents had their home for a number of years. After the death of the grandfather, the grandmother built the house which is still standing there. Aaron Kotterman, the father died at the age of seventy-one years, and had long been an active member of the Methodist church. During the war he went out as a soldier of the Eighty-seventh Indiana Regiment, serving as corporal, and was wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Gettysburg. The saber which he carried through the war is now in the possession of his son Truman, and a prized relic of both the war and his father's part therein. By occupation Aaron Kotterman was a carpenter for a number of years, and much of the work which he did in the county is still standing as a witness to his careful skill and labor. Aaron Kotterman, who had been as public spirited as he had been successful in private business, formerly served his community as road supervisor, and had always done his part in building up and improving the township.

Truman Kotterman remained on the home farm until he was married, which event took place on January 25, 1903. His wife was before her marriage Miss Maude Snider, daughter of Solomon and Emily (Boden) Snider. Mr. and Mrs. Kotterman have in their home a child



of their own, Vivian, born November 16, 1903, and an orphan, Boyd, who was born April 14, 1911.

After his marriage, Mr. Kotterman first located on Grandfather Old's farm, where he remained two years. From there he came to his present homestead, which he bought seven years ago. He has one hundred and twenty acres, and cultivates it as a productive and profitable estate. The buildings were on the place when he bought it, but he has improved all of them, and has done a great deal of work in clearing and developing the farm as a home and a business enterprise. He keeps some thoroughbred stock, and engages in general farming. He and his family are members of the United Brethren church, and at one time he was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Kotterman is known as "High View Lodge."

**CHARLES C. HARRIS.** Former county drainage commissioner of Miami county, Mr. Harris is one of the most substantial agriculturists of Union township, and has spent most of his life in this section of Indiana, being a native of Miami county.

Charles C. Harris was born in Miami county, on the fifth of October, 1869. His parents were Thomas and Sarah (Miller) Harris, the father having been a native of Tennessee. The father died about 1903, and the mother in 1899, their deaths occurring in Wabash county, where they are buried.

Reared and educated in the country and by attendance at the local schools, C. C. Harris grew up and from an early age has had a practical and thorough knowledge of agriculture in all its departments. In Miami county, in 1897 he was united in marriage with Lula Ward, a daughter of John and Cynthia (Burns) Ward. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of three children, whose names are Hueston H., Vera J., and Ralph W. For a number of years Mr. Harris was a resident of Wabash county, and in 1897 for about six months, was in the feed business at Peru. After that he returned to Wabash county, and spent about two years there as a successful farmer. He then moved to his present rural home in Union township. He has one hundred and sixty acres of fine land, and the improvements are of the best and keeping with the standard Miami county country homes. Though the buildings were on the place when he acquired it he has added to and improved most of them, and is a man who keeps his estate in thorough repair. He has also done considerable ditching, fencing and general improvement work. Mr. Harris and family are members of the Methodist church, and he is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees at Perrysburg. From 1906 to 1908 he held the responsible place as county drainage commissioner and during that time did much effective work, for the improvement of the lowlands in the county. In politics he is a Democrat. As a farmer he raises hogs as his chief stock product, and in 1912 shipped two carloads to market. The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Harris is known as "Locust Lawn Stock Farm."

**HENRY KNAUFF.** One of the best improved farms in Miami county is the Knauff estate in Union township. It is the home of progressive German-American citizenship, where Henry Knauff has lived and given his energies to its development and improvement for more than forty years. For what he has accomplished as a farmer, and also for his influence in citizenship and as a helpful factor in community affairs, Henry Knauff has the respect and esteem of his entire community.

Born in Germany, May 10, 1863, he was a son of George and Anna C. (Kuhn) Knauff. The paternal grandfather was named Nicholas

Knauff. In 1868, when Henry was five years of age, the family emigrated from Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, landing in Castle Garden, New York City, July 4, 1868. The father came on direct to Miami county, settling in Union township. For a number of years he was a renter, having only a small amount of capital when he arrived and through the gradual accumulations of his economy and thrift, he finally got a permanent start. He then bought the farm where his son Henry, and where the father also resides. A number of years before, John A. Taylor had come to Union township and had taken up considerable land along Weasaw Creek, and started a couple of grist mills. He sold his land to Dr. Passage and the latter sold to E. A. Shirk. The senior Mr. Knauff bought the land from Mr. Shirk and has made it his home to the present time. George Knauff, the father, is now eighty-five years of age. He is a member of the Christian church. His first wife died in 1871, and he then married Emily J. McDonald, who died in 1908.

Henry Knauff has lived on his present place for forty-three years, and was reared and received all his education in Miami county. In these years he spent much time and labor in the improvement of the farm, and at the present time is engaged in the erection of a commodious new barn.

Mr. Knauff was elected trustee of Union township in 1900 and gave efficient service in that position for four years and two months. After that he was appointed assessor, and is serving in that office at the present time. He and his family worship at the Perrysburg Baptist church, of which he is Deacon. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of the Maccabees.

In 1882, in Union township of Miami county Henry Knauff married Rosanna Deeds, a daughter of George Deeds. George Deeds and his brother William at one time owned the land upon which the village of Deedsville is now located, and the name of that little center of population commemorates the name of Deeds. The Deeds family came to Miami county from Ohio in the early sixties. The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Knauff are as follows: Harry E., at home; Charles R., who married Ethel Raber, daughter of B. F. Raber, and they have one son Marvin; Elsie L., who married Verl Sowers, of this county; Henry Ray, at home; and Florence M., at home.

**JOHN L. DEWALD.** One of the men who has seen Miami county come up from its loghouse cabin period to the twentieth-century era of achievement and civilization is John L. DeWald of Union township, where he has resided for many years, and where the family located in 1845. Mr. DeWald is a prosperous farmer, a man of substantial means, and of very effective influence in his community.

John L. DeWald was born in Union township of Miami county, June 10, 1846. He was a son of William and a grandson of John DeWald. His mother's maiden name was Judey Lutz. The father arrived in Miami county on June 10, 1845, having come from Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania. He located at that time in Union township, and was a man of note in that section during the remainder of his life. He had married in Pennsylvania, and on arriving in this county bought a farm just southeast of Deedsville. He dug out the undergrowth and stumps from a portion of this land, and in this clearing planted and harvested his first crops. He continued the strenuous labor of clearing the timber from his land until he had made a first-class farm. On the estate he erected a hewed-log house, a structure which still stands for the inspection and admiration of the present generation, who through such a building can obtain a clearer idea of the hardships which the first



settlers endured. Even when it was in prime condition the cracks between the logs were such that the fingers of a man's hand might pass through and it was in that house that John L. DeWald was born and reared. The school house which he attended was also of logs, and was a union school maintained by both Richland and Union townships. The term of school lasted for about two months in the year, and during all the rest of the twelve months he spent at home assisting in the farm labor. Mr. DeWald recalls that when a boy the principal article of food consumed in the DeWald household was made of cornmeal and easily took the form of corn fritters. On the old homestead the father continued to live until his death on August 19, 1891. His wife passed away in October, 1889.

John L. DeWald was married in 1870 to Malinda Stoller, a daughter of Jeremiah and Sophia (Richard) Stoller. The four children born to their marriage are mentioned as follows: Viola J. DeWald; Martha Adelia, who married John S. Waymire; Verna Alvesta, who married W. F. Robison, and has two children, Varyl Victoria and Martha Nola; and Charles H., who died at the age of six months. Mrs. DeWald is a native of Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, born August 5, 1852, the second of thirteen children born to her parents. Both her father and mother are dead. She was almost fourteen years of age when she came with her parents to Miami county and this has been her home ever since.

After his marriage Mr. DeWald bought the farm in Union township where he now resides, and he and his wife industriously took to work to make themselves a home and provide for their children. His first purchase was eighty acres of land, to which he added as he prospered until at the present time he has one hundred and seventeen acres, representing as good values as probably any similar farm in the county. When he bought a log house and a log barn were the chief improvements. He tore these down as inconsistent with the era in which they stood, and has since erected excellent farm buildings, including a comfortable residence for himself and family. He has cleared ten acres from timber, and has excellent grain fields, and raises some fine crops. His father was a member of the Lutheran church, and Mr. and Mrs. DeWald follow in the same faith. At one time he was affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and in civic affairs has served as township supervisor. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. DeWald is known as "Oak Grove Stock Farm."

**JAMES E. HATTERY.** A well known agriculturist of Union township, whose success has been marked by progressive advancement from a farm where he was a renter, until he is now owner of one of the excellent farms near Deedsville, Mr. Hattery is a native of Indiana, and has spent a great part of his life in Miami county.

He was born in Fulton county, Indiana, December 24, 1854, a son of Andrew and Sarah Ann (Shelton) Hattery. His mother was a daughter of Thomas Shelton. Mr. Hattery was reared and educated in this state, having the advantages of the common schools, and in Miami county, on February 22, Washington's birthday, 1880, he married Miss Ualla M. Briggs, a daughter of Robert Briggs. The six children born to their marriage are as follows: Indiana Josephine, Ora Olive, Albert Roy, Robert Ralph, Clarence E. (who graduated in class of 1913), and William E. The first three children are married.

After his marriage Mr. Hattery and wife remained one year in Allen township, and then moved out to the state of Kansas. Returning from that state in the fall of 1892, he has since been a permanent resident of Miami county. He located again in Allen township, and from there

came to Union township, renting a place near Deedsville. For three years he farmed that place, after which he moved into Fulton county, his native county, and spent three years there. After his experience as a Fulton county farmer, he again took up his residence in Allen township, which was his home for four years, and where he farmed as a renter. From that place he came to his present farm in Union township, and here bought one hundred and sixteen acres of land. He has done much to improve his place and make it more productive and comfortable in every way. He has added to the house, and has recently put up a commodious barn. Altogether he has expended about fifteen hundred dollars in improvements, and by his additional labor has increased the value of the farm much more than that above what he paid for it. Mr. Hattery is a public-spirited citizen, and has served his community as road supervisor. He and his family attend the Christian church. The pretty estate of Mr. and Mrs. Hattery is known as the "O. K. Stock Farm."

**WILLIAM C. LUTZ.** For some years a farmer in Jackson township, Cass county, William C. Lutz was driven by circumstances out of the industry to which he had long been devoted, and he has since given his attention to the elevator business in Bunker Hill, in which he, as a member of the firm of J. M. Coucher Company, is realizing a pleasing success. He was at one time the sole owner of the business, but recently admitted to partnership the man whose name indicates the company.

Mr. Lutz was born in Cass county, on June 30, 1867, and is the son of Joseph and Eliza Lutz. The paternal grandfather was Ruben Lutz, and he, too, was a farming man in Cass county. William Lutz received a smattering of education in Jackson township, attending a few months yearly for eight years. Beyond that his training did not extend. When he first launched out for himself he identified himself inconspicuously with the elevator business, but the great part of his energy was given to his farming activities, in which he continued successfully until 1905. In that year he met with an accident that altered the whole course of his life. He was driving across the railroad tracks when an on-coming train, dashing swiftly about a curve, struck the rig, killing his wife outright, and injuring him permanently. This fatality occurred at Galveston, Indiana. Mr. Lutz was compelled thereafter to relinquish his farming activities and has since devoted himself to the elevator business. In those days, he was already operating an elevator at Bunker Hill, but he later sold a half interest to J. M. Coucher, since which time the business has been operating under the name of the J. M. Coucher Company.

Mr. Lutz's marriage occurred in 1891, when Ida Armstrong, the daughter of William and Susan Armstrong, became his wife. They became the parents of two children—Oliver and Almena, both of whom share the paternal home. But for his children, Mr. Lutz would be without near relatives, and practically alone, for his parents died in 1903, when they were seventy-six and seventy-five years old.

The fraternal associations of Mr. Lutz are with Bunker Hill Lodge No. 683, A. F. & A. M., Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Galveston, and the Knights of Pythias at Bunker Hill. Mr. Lutz has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for some time in Bunker Hill, although he was for fifteen years a member of the United Brethren church at Galveston. He is prominent and popular with his fellow men in Bunker Hill and wherever he is known, and is reckoned among the solid men of the community.



ALBERT M. WAISNER. One of the attractive and valuable farms of Deer Creek township is the Albert M. Waisner place. Its proprietor, Albert Waisner, bought the land when it was almost entirely a landscape of stumps, had partial building improvement, and needed a capable executive manager to develop its productive resources. Mr. Waisner had grown up in Miami county, was familiar with farming industry in all its details, and brought a full experience and ability to the improvement of his new place according to his standards of what he wanted this farm to be. It is therefore a farm which has been largely shaped out by his own labors and plans, and represents both a comfortable home and a gratifying success. The Waisner place comprises one hundred and fifteen acres, and has substantial buildings and well cultivated fields, every feature marking the thrift and progressiveness of its proprietor.

Albert Waisner was born in Miami county, March 9, 1864, and represents a substantial old family name in this section. His parents were Solomon and Margaret (Breasher) Waisner. He was reared on his father's farm, and remained a member of the home circle until he reached his majority and was married. Then occurred his removal to Howard county in Indiana, where he and his wife started life by renting a farm of fifty acres. However, at that time, Mr. Waisner owned forty acres of land in Howard county. Nine years were spent in Howard county, and during that time a substantial foundation was laid for his present prosperity. Returning then to Miami county, this locality has since been his home. At the time he bought his present farm, a portion of it was clear, and there were a barn and a poor dwelling, but the place has been practically made as the result of the industry and management of Mr. and Mrs. Waisner. In 1885 Albert Waisner and Miss Amanda J. Weaver, a daughter of George Weaver, were united in the bonds of matrimony, and their companionship as man and wife has now continued for nearly thirty years. To their marriage have been born three children, mentioned as follows: Mamie, born November 30, 1887; Frank, born August 10, 1892; and Hazel, born January 15, 1895. Hazel is the wife of Nile Maggart, and their home is in North Dakota. Politically Mr. Waisner is a Republican. His religious faith is that set forth in the creed of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he and his wife are attendants. The pretty home of Mr. and Mrs. Waisner is known as "The Glendale Forest Homestead."

GEORGE B. PHELPS. In many of the present day residents of Miami county are to be found men who reflect the activities of two and three generations of those men who literally wrested the community from the grasp of the Indian and began the process of cultivation and building that has brought the country to its present status. To those who have taken up the work where sire and grandsire laid it down, is due quite as much of the credit for present conditions as to those earlier builders, for in them is discernible the same spirit that characterized their ancestry, though perhaps directed along different channels, from the very nature of the developments that have come about. George B. Phelps, of Deer Creek township, in Miami county, is one of the third generation of a family that has been identified with the agricultural interests of this county since first the homeseeker chose Indiana as a possible place for the maintenance of a family.

When Bissell Phelps, the grandfather of George B. Phelps, came from his native state, New York, and settled in Miami county, this part of the country was densely covered with timber, and to exist in the wilderness entailed upon him and his family the most arduous labors.

His original settlement was in Clay township, and this township was his home till his death. The old Phelps homestead is located about three-quarters of a mile from the present home of George B. Phelps.

Here on the farm of his father, on September 17, 1871, was born George B. Phelps, the son of Andrew J. and Caroline C. (Wyrick) Phelps. Andrew J. Phelps had come to Indiana in 1853, from New York state, where he was born, and in Miami county he passed the remainder of his life, death claiming him in 1897. His widow still survives, as do also their five sons. Mrs. Phelps is the daughter of Jacob Wyrick, one of the very earliest pioneers of De Kalb county.

On September 27, 1905, George B. Phelps married Miss Angelina Kendall, and to them was born one child, Dale K., on July 21, 1909. The father of Mrs. Phelps, John Kendall, was twice married, and was the father of twelve children. His first wife was known in her maiden days as Dina Shrock, and his second wife was Alice Aldrich. Mrs. Phelps is a child of the first union.

Fraternally he is identified with numerous organizations, including the Knights of Pythias, Castle Hall Lodge No. 364, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 664, the I. O. R. M., No. 267, and the A. F. & A. M. He became a Mason in 1902, and his membership is in Crescent Lodge No. 280. He is a Past Sachem of the Red Men order referred to above, and is prominent in all his fraternal affiliations. Mr. Phelps has never been active in politics nor has he ever held any political office.

**ABSALOM HERRELL.** Representing one of the oldest families of southern Miami county, Absalom Herrell himself spent nearly seventy years in this county, and was one of the oldest citizens of Deer Creek township, the development of which he witnessed and in which he bore an important part through practically all the years from the time this entire country was covered with the forest and was unbroken by the achievements of men, until his recent death.

Absalom Herrell was born in Ripley county, March 16, 1836, a son of William and Elizabeth (Hensley) Herrell. The family on both sides is of Holland origin. The Herrell family moved to Miami county from Ripley county in 1844, locating in Deer Creek township. Their first home was a large log house, very pretentious and comfortable for the times, and that was the home for seven years. The father then moved to another place in this township, and there erected a new and somewhat more modern style of residence. The father died in this county in 1868, and was survived by his widow for many years.

Absalom Herrell remained at home until the outbreak of the war, at which time he enlisted in Company A of the Thirty-ninth Indiana Infantry, and gave faithful and continuous service for four years. In one of the many battles in which he participated, he was shot in the side, the bullet passing entirely through his body, and he was for a long time incapacitated by this wound. After the war he took up railroad work and was engaged in that for about twenty-five years, but afterward lived retired. The home which he occupied he bought about thirty years ago, and the house was constructed by a man named Blake, who had been a lieutenant in the regiment with which Mr. Herrell served as a soldier. Mr. Herrell was supervisor of highways in Deer Creek township, and was one of the old and honored members of this community. He was a communicant of the Mission church.

Mr. Herrell was married April 24, 1864, to Miss Sarah La Rue, of French descent, and to them were born five children. Ida, born October 4, 1871, wedded John Knox and they have five children: Forest,



Gerald, Silas, Mabel and Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Knox are members of the Friends church and reside in Converse, Indiana, and he is trustee of the township and proprietor of the Converse Mills. Charles E., born December 26, 1873, wedded Carrie Winger and they have four children: Estelle, Orpha, Opal and Helen. Zenna received her diploma from the public school and then was a student four years in the Miami high school; she taught school in Tipton county one year and two years in Miami county and resides with her mother. Leslie E. is a resident of Miami, Indiana. Ressie married Leslie Davidson, an agent of Deer Creek township and also one of the teachers in the Miami schools. They have one little son, John Herrell. Mrs. Herrell is a native of Delaware county, born June 12, 1847. There were six children born to her parents, Britton and Mary (Willever) La Rue and four are living at present; two are residents of Indiana and the other two reside in other states. John H. La Rue is a resident of Birmingham, Alabama, and is married; Charles H. is a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, and is an agriculturist. Mrs. Herrell traces her lineage to the French. Her family were among the early settlers in Delaware county of Indiana, subsequently moving into Grant county in 1855, and in 1860 her father came to Miami county where he made his home up to the time of his death. Mrs. Herrell was four years of age when her parents came to Grant county, Indiana. She was educated in the public schools and is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church at Miami, Indiana. Mr. Herrell passed from this life July 7, 1913, and his remains are interred in the Miami cemetery. He was a man of high integrity of character, and universally respected.

**JOHN C. WALTZ.** It is a substantial tribute to a family when it can be said that what one generation has secured and won from the dominion of the wilderness, the next following has continued to improve and has increased in value many fold. That is real progress and without its manifestation a community must stand still. Progress has been the keynote of the career of John Waltz, one of the leading residents of Deer Creek township.

Born in Miami county, October 7, 1856, John Waltz is a son of Michael Waltz, one of the pioneers of this county. It was in 1848 that Michael Waltz landed in this part of Indiana, his settlement being made in Washington township. There he was the first man to enter land and pay one dollar and a quarter per acre for it. In that way he acquired title to eighty acres, forty acres of which he subsequently sold, thinking he had too much. In this county he married Mary Hanks, and he and his young bride went to housekeeping in a log building which he had erected on his claim. In this house all their children were born, and it served as the family home for many years. Recently it was torn down, and thus disappeared one of the early landmarks of Miami county. At the age of nineteen years, John Waltz left home and found employment as a wage worker on farms in the neighborhood. His work in the employ of others continued for several years until he purchased a little land of his own and started its development. After his marriage he lived on a twenty-five acre farm, adjoining the one he now owns and occupies. In 1900 he bought twenty-eight and a half acres of this land, and five years later, by the purchase of another twenty-eight acres, combined the two tracts into a nice little farm, all of which represents his hardy industry and good management and the loyal co-operation of himself and his noble wife. In addition to the land already cleared and under cultivation, he himself cleared five acres, and has done a great deal to make his property more valuable since it came into his

possession. In his youth he had meagre educational advantages, barely learning to read and write, but he learned how to manage and to save his earnings, and his success as a farmer is well attested in his section of the county.

On the fourteenth of October, 1883, John Waltz and Miss Barbara Anna Mast were united in marriage. Her parents, Andrew J. and Catherine (Cook) Mast, came to Indiana from near Dayton, Ohio. Her father died January 1, 1901, and her mother passed away in 1907. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Waltz have been born four children, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: William Andrew, born September 14, 1888, married Flossie Glasborn; Catherine L., born July 26, 1891; Flora E., born October 30, 1893, died at the age of four years; and Benjamin B., born March 23, 1897. Mr. Waltz and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal Church.

WM. EDWARD DAVIS. About twenty-five years ago Mr. Davis was graduated from a farm, and the common schools, and made his "commencement" in the practical work of the world as a merchant at Bennett Switch. A sturdy, hopeful, earnest man, he has prospered himself, and is one of those who have developed their community along cleanly, helpful, worthy ways. At the present time Mr. Davis owns and occupies an excellent farm in Deer Creek township.

A native of Miami county, he was born April 30, 1867, a son of John R. and Martha R. (Powell) Davis, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Ohio. John R. Davis left his native state in early life, went to Ohio, and there met and married Miss Powell. About 1866, they moved into Indiana, and took up their residence in Miami county, at first in Pipe Creek township, and later in Deer Creek township, where the parents lived useful and respected lives until death came to them at a good old age.

W. E. Davis remained a member of the home circle until he was twenty-one years of age, and then started out to make his own way in the world. His first venture was in the general merchandise business at Bennett Switch. There he had his home for a period of twenty-three years, and sixteen of that were in the service of postmaster of the town, keeping the mail in his store. Since leaving merchandising Mr. Davis has devoted all his attention and energy to the farming of a tract of forty acres, which he owns and which he has improved with good buildings, and his place measures up to the high standard set by rural life in this part of Miami county. In his youth Mr. Davis had no other educational advantages than those supplied by the common schools.

While his material prosperity has been gratifying, Mr. Davis has special reason to be proud of his family, and to his loyal wife he owes much of his success. On August 27, 1886, W. E. Davis and Miss Mary Lucas were united in marriage. The Lucas family moved from Washington county, Indiana, to Miami county, when Mrs. Davis was a child of three years. Her parents were William L. and Emeline (Waisner) Lucas, well known residents of Miami county. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the parents of five children, as follows: Martha Leah, born July 4, 1888, the wife of John W. Aaron; Millie Zoe, born July 28, 1889, and married A. O. McKinley; Frank E., born May 25, 1891; Joseph E., born August 15, 1893; and Clarence L., born February 26, 1895—the last three living at home. Mr. Davis and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church.



LEONARD G. STITT. The modern merchant is found in nearly every section of Miami county. The man who knows what the people want and how far their wants can be safely stimulated; who keeps a large and well selected stock, but never so long that it is shelf-worn and out of date, and who acts on that solid principle that real success is only the return for an adequate commercial service; these are the qualities of the most prosperous men in merchandising, and one such merchant in Miami county is Mr. L. G. Stitt, whose large general store is at North Grove. Mr. Stitt is one of the representatives of his locality where he was born and reared, and where he has spent the whole of his life with the exception of six years, during which he was in the drug business at Indianapolis.

L. G. Stitt was born on his father's farm in Harrison township, Miami county, November 5, 1873, a son of David and Harriet (Lee) Stitt. His paternal grandfather was David Stitt, and the grandfather on the mother's side was Jesse Lee. David Stitt was one of the early settlers of Miami county. It was in 1845 that he took up his residence here, and engaged in agricultural pursuits, and here he is still living at a good ripe old age, respected by all who know him. His career has been one of industry, he provided to the limit of his resources for his family, and not only acquired a substantial share of the world's goods, but reaped the esteem of his fellow men.

L. G. Stitt was reared in Miami county, is a product of the local schools, and when ready to start on an independent career his first venture was in North Grove as a grain merchant. This business he subsequently sold, and later established a general store. His residence in the capital city as above mentioned, terminated in 1911, when he sold out and returned to North Grove. His present store was formerly without a drug department, which he has added and he now carries a complete line of all kinds of general merchandise.

Mr. Stitt was married in 1898 to Miss Pearl Jones, a daughter of Thomas R. Jones. They have no children. For a number of years, Mr. Stitt has been affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and is also identified with the Masonic fraternities, having membership in Harrison Lodge No. 660, A. F. & A. M. He and his wife attend worship in the Christian church.

JOSEPH L. RESLER. For a period of forty-four years, Joseph Resler has been identified with Miami county, where he began his career on a rented farm, and where by hard work, by honorable dealing with all men, and by a persistence which eventually brings all good things to mankind, has won prosperity and has lived with honor for many years.

Joseph Resler was born in Fayette county, Ohio, December 22, 1853. His father was Hiram Resler, and his grandfather Michael Resler. His mother, whose maiden name was Mahala Lindsey, was a daughter of John Lindsey. The mother passed away March 4, 1883, and the father on July 17, 1885. Two of their sons, W. J. and Henry T. Resler, were soldiers in the Civil war, both in Company A of the First Ohio Cavalry. Henry T. died in July, 1906.

Joseph Resler was reared in his native county, and remained there until he was about fifteen years of age. A year was then spent in the state of Missouri, and from there he came to his present location in Harrison township of Miami county, in 1869. Upon his arrival he found a home on a farm, about three quarters of a mile from his present estate, worked as a renter, and lived there for two years. At the end of that time he was able to purchase eighty acres, comprised within his present home, and a portion of that land was cleared of its trees and

brush, as a direct result of his labor. Mr. Resler also built the barn, and has instituted many other improvements. The home in which he resides was erected by the previous occupant.

Mr. Resler was married in 1873 to Miss Sarah J. Brown, a daughter of Asa Brown, and a granddaughter of Elisha Brown. Mrs. Resler is the sole survivor of a family of seven children. Her father settled in Miami county, in February, 1853, was one of the early residents, and lived here until his death at a good old age, on March 22, 1873. His widow survived him until October 19, 1888. To the marriage of Mr. Resler and wife have been born five children as follows: Francis L., born October 27, 1875, a physician and surgeon at Amboy, and a graduate from the State Medical College in Indianapolis, married Emma Whitesell; Edith A., born November 23, 1877, is the wife of Dr. A. S. Newell; Arthur G., born October 23, 1880, and died November 13, 1888; Dorothea B., born March 22, 1887, is the wife of Elmer King, and Everett C., born February 10, 1890, died January 31, 1892.

Mr. Resler and family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, which he at one time served as trustee. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic Order in Converse Lodge No. 601.

**JAMES W. RAYBURN.** A resident of Miami county since 1875, a farmer citizen who has followed his vocation with substantial success, and who now lives retired in the village of Miami in Deer Creek township, James W. Rayburn began his career as a renter, and by industry and capable management and a thorough integrity which has characterized all his dealings finally acquired all the elements which constitute material success and worthy position in the community.

James W. Rayburn was born in Marion county, Indiana, near the city of Indianapolis, May 5, 1848. His paternal grandfather was John W. Rayburn and his father David Rayburn. His maternal grandfather was James Ruggles, the maiden name of the mother being Nancy Ruggles. The ancestry is of mingled Scotch and German.

James W. Rayburn was reared in Marion county, and received his education in the schools of that locality. On leaving home he located in Tipton county, where he remained as a farmer for about ten years and where he became acquainted with Miss Effie C. Humrickhouse, to whom he was united in marriage on August 1, 1871. Her father, Ebenezer Humrickhouse, was one of the earliest settlers in Miami county, and for two terms served as treasurer of this county, so that his name is preserved among the official annals of the county government. His death occurred in February, 1868, and he had located in Deer Creek township in 1844. Several years after his marriage Mr. Rayburn, in 1875, came to Miami county, and located on the farm of his father-in-law in Deer Creek township.

Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn are the parents of six children, named as follows: Hattie M., the wife of Charles A. Percy; Charles E., who married Lethe Lawrence; Arthur D., who married Pearl Russell of Bennetts Switch; May, who married A. M. Zehring; Lottie C., who married Harry H. Weise; Herbert E., who married Dollie Roth. The children are all residents of the county, with the exception of Arthur, whose home is in Tipton county. Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn have taken pains to give their children the best of home and school advantages, and all of them have acquired worthy places in the world's activities.

Mr. Rayburn lived on the old Bowman farm in Deer Creek township up to 1910, at which time he moved to the village of Miami. He has a modern and attractive residence and his home represents the comforts which his prosperous career has produced. The old Bowman farm was



long known as the Bowman Beer Garden, having been occupied with a saloon in the days before Mr. Rayburn took possession of it. On the first land which Mr. Rayburn farmed in Miami township stood a log house, and that was the residence for himself and wife for about eight years, and several of the children were born in that primitive old home. It contained three rooms. He subsequently erected a modern house and barn and other outbuildings on this place. Beginning with only fifty acres of land, he gradually accumulated, as prosperity came to him, more land until at the present time he is the owner of one hundred and eighty-three acres, and is as well situated from a material point of view as any citizen in his vicinity.

Mr. Rayburn and family are members of the Methodist church and all his ancestors for as many generations as there are records of were also connected with that denomination. He, a number of years ago, served in the state militia. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men, his tribe being No. 267.

**JOHN H. DAVIS.** In Deer Creek township near the little village of Miami, Mr. Davis and family resides, his home being the old Austin Herrell place, a farm which has been known to the residents of Deer Creek township since pioneer times, and possessing associations such as few individual homes in this locality have. Mr. Davis and wife both represent old families of Miami county, and he has long been known as one of the successful agriculturists of this vicinity.

John H. Davis was born in Miami county July 20, 1870. His father was John R. Davis, and the maiden name of his mother was Martha A. Powell. The father passed away about 1900 and the mother in 1879. John R. Davis had come to Miami county in 1866 and his previous residence had been Miami county in the state of Ohio. However, he was born in Virginia, and his people for generations back had all been residents of that commonwealth.

Mr. John H. Davis remained on the old homestead until he was twenty-one years of age, and attained his education and early training in this vicinity. The first home which his father had occupied on coming to Miami county was an old log house which stood upon the farm at the time, and John H. was born in this rude house and has known many of the environments of pioneer existence. The father subsequently built a modern residence and made it his home up to the time of his death. On coming to the county, he obtained one hundred and sixty acres of land, but of this only twenty acres was cleared and all the rest was in the virgin wilderness.

At the age of twenty-one, in 1892, Mr. John H. Davis married Miss Clyde Herrell, and he subsequently bought her father's old farm near Miami. The place when he bought it consisted of one hundred and fifty-nine acres, but he has since sold seventy-nine acres and retains the remaining eighty acres. The old home was built by Austin Herrell himself and Mr. Davis during his ownership has put up the modern barn which now adorns the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Davis attend the Methodist Church and he is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Miami, Ind. They are the parents of one child Charles, who was born November 24, 1892, and is now living at home.

The late Austin Herrell, the father of Mrs. John H. Davis, was one of the pioneers of Deer Creek township, was the first to occupy the office of township trustee, assisted in the erection of the first school house in the township, and in many ways was prominently identified with the early history of this section of Miami county. He was born

in Kentucky in 1825, and was nearly eighty years of age at the time of his death Nov. 22, 1902. He came to Miami county in 1842, working for his brother for a number of years, and in 1846 took a homestead of eighty acres of land in Deer Creek township. He built a log cabin and began his married life in pioneer style, became notable as one of the most successful farmers of the vicinity, was honored frequently with public trust and responsibility, and out of his industry and good management created a fine estate. The first school house of the township was built on his farm, and he was also interested in the little village of Miami, where he was the second to engage in the mercantile business and he built a warehouse there in 1860, continuing for many years as one of the local business men. His name is one to be remembered in the history of this county.

**CHARLES V. GAHS.** Standing high in the esteem of his fellow citizens in Harrison township, an agriculturist who has in many ways proved his expertness, and who possesses a substantial property and is well fortified in the confidence and regard of his community, Charles V. Gahs has spent all his life in Miami county, and all his active career has been spent in Harrison township.

Mr. Gahs was born in Peru, the county seat, September 9, 1868, a son of Valentine and Philippina (Graf) Gahs. His mother was a daughter of Michael Graf. Valentine Gahs was for a time employed in the packing plant at Peru, later started a grocery, and did some packing of the meat sold through his store, and was generally successful in his dealings and business affairs. His time was devoted to business until his death, which occurred in 1879. His widow survived him until 1899. They were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, of whom two sons are deceased. Frank M., the oldest, died in 1889, at the age of twenty-five years. Fred died at the age of twenty-seven years. The daughter, Catherine P., was her brother's housekeeper, but she is now deceased, dying April 7, 1913.

After the death of the father, the family moved to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Harrison township, and that was the environment in which Charles V. Gahs was reared to manhood. He was educated in the district school, having attended school in Peru for a short time, and at an early age resumed the responsibilities of directing the farm. He has made numerous improvements, has erected some of the present group of buildings, and in every direction has shown a progressive and enterprising spirit. Mr. Gahs is unmarried. He attends the Presbyterian church as did also his sister, and his political support is given to the Democratic party. The pretty estate of Mr. Gahs is known as "Shade Lands Stock Farm."

**MOSES D. HENSLER.** Few residents of the country community in Miami county have more thoroughly deserved the esteem and high standing among fellow citizens than Mr. Hensler, whose home has been in Harrison township, since his childhood. His years were still those of boyhood when he first took a hand in the practical affairs of life, and with little education and relying almost entirely on his native ability and industry, he has prospered as few other residents in his section have, and now enjoys not only a comfortable competence, an excellent home, but has been honored by his fellow citizens with positions of trust and responsibility in public affairs.

M. D. Hensler is a native of Ohio, born in Holmes county, November 8, 1851, a son of Lewis C. and Sarah (Miller) Hensler. His grandfather was Christian Hensler. The father was born in Germany, and in



coming to America was six weeks in performing the journey across the ocean. In 1857 when M. D. Hensler was six years of age, the family moved from Ohio to Indiana, locating in Miami county, on land adjoining that now occupied by M. D. Hensler in Harrison township. This was the scene of his early years, and his boyhood days were spent in assisting with the farm work. Until he was fourteen he attended school about three or four months each year. The nearest school and the one he attended was in Howard county. After he was fourteen all his time was given to farm work, and thus his schooling was limited. Under the parental roof he lived until his marriage and then started out for himself. His home has always been in Harrison township, and when he and his young bride faced the world together, they had very little capital, but much courage and were quite willing and were well justified in mortgaging the future. The first purchase of land was forty acres, included within the present fine Hensler homestead, and to this purchase, through successive years of industry and economy, they have added from time to time tracts of thirty-seven, forty-three, twenty, twenty-one, forty and two and a half acres, so that the entire estate is now two hundred and two acres. A portion of this land was cleared when it came into their possession, but the labors of Mr. Hensler have cleared off some thirty or forty acres, and with the exception of a barn, which he has remodeled, he has erected all the buildings to be seen about the place.

On April 11, 1875, Mr. Hensler married Margaret Gerhart, a daughter of Michael and Margaret (Dancer) Gerhart. Mr. and Mrs. Hensler have lived together nearly forty years, and in that time there have come into their home and blessed their marriage twelve children, five of whom died when quite young. Those living are John H., Nettie G., Homer L., Reuben R., Rolla Nelson, Roscoe Vernon, and Orlando. Of this number three are settled in homes of their own. John H. married Cora Roth; Nettie G. is the wife of Milton Strauss; and Homer L. married Frankie Hunt.

The continued prosperity and the enterprise shown by Mr. Hensler in all his dealings and his career commended him to the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and in 1900 he was honored by election to the office of commissioners of Miami county. He served one term on the board, and in that office and also as a private citizen has always worked effectively for community welfare. The pretty home of Mr. and Mrs. Hensler is known as "Village View Farm."

**REV. BEVERLY R. WARD.** Few people in considering the lives of men who have given themselves to the Christian ministry, stop to realize in more than the most casual manner the immensity of the sacrifice some must make in order to obey the pointing finger of duty. Old established ties must be severed, long cherished plans relinquished, interests fraught with much that is personal and intimate be wiped from the slate of life,—all to make possible the obedience of the individual to the clarion call of conscience. Rev. Beverly R. Ward was one of those honest, conscientious and unrelenting men, who had sacrificed much that was deeply rooted in the spring of being in order to fulfill his destiny as a member of the Christian ministry, and his life in that capacity has fully justified the sacrifice.

Born in Rush county, Indiana, in about the year 1820, Rev. Ward was reared on the farm of his parents until the death of his father when he was five years old, after which he was cared for by an elder brother in Clinton county. There he learned the trade of a cabinet maker, and when he was about eighteen years old he married Nancy J. Lett. In

later years fortune favored him to such an extent that he was able to engage in the furniture business, in Alto, Howard county, Indiana, and he had reached a considerable prominence and success in the enterprise when he became converted to Christianity, was baptised and became a member of the Baptist church. His conversion was not merely an emotional experience, but went deep into his life and so strongly did he feel the call of the Gospel that he in time saw the day when he could no longer withstand his call to preach. He was a man of common school education, but he was determined to respond to the call, and fully confident that his course was the right one, sold out his business in Alto in order that he might supply the means to continue his education. Everything the young zealot owned was sacrificed, and he entered Franklin College in Johnston county, and at this time he had five sons and his wife. He got into touch with the common branches and later engaged in the study of theology. In due time he was equipped for the ministry, and the remainder of his life, covering a period of nearly fifty years, was spent in the preaching of the gospel in various places where he was stationed throughout Indiana. He served the old Deer Creek church faithfully as well as the church at Bunker Hill for many years, and he was long the pastor of the Antioch Baptist church. He was a staunch Union man during the Civil war and four of his sons were soldiers in the Union army during the struggle.

By his first wife, Rev. Ward had six children, all of whom are living. The mother died in 1864, and he later married Rebecca J. Campbell, and to them were born four children, two of the number being yet alive, and one of them, Elizabeth, is now a missionary to Japan. Rev. Ward died February 21, 1900.

**JAMES O. WARD, M. D.** A son of the late Rev. Beverly R. Ward, Dr. J. O. Ward is one of the oldest physicians and surgeons of Peru, in which city he has been almost continuously identified with his profession for more than forty years.

James Osborn Ward was born in Clinton county, Indiana, February 9, 1844. He attended the public schools during his youth and was old enough to give six months of service to the union during the war of the Rebellion. He went in with the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment of Indiana Infantry, and all his service was in eastern Tennessee. Returning to the army in 1864 he took up the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Drs. Cooper and Johnson at Kokomo. In 1867 he graduated in medicine from the Miami medical college at Cincinnati, and first established himself for practice at Galveston in Cass county. In 1869 he came to Peru and with brief exceptions his practice has been steady in this city and vicinity ever since. Dr. Ward is one of the physicians who combine the old time characteristics of the kindly doctor with the more scientific and skillful attainments of the modern physician, and he has consequently enjoyed a large practice and the high regard of all the local citizenship. Dr. Ward served as pension examiner at Peru from 1870 to 1883, and his resignation from that position was due to his removal to Denver, Colorado, on account of ill health. After living at Denver and practicing a little less than three years he returned to Peru, and has been in this city ever since.

Dr. Ward belongs to the Miami county medical societies and the state associations, also to the American Medical Association, is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a Republican in politics. He and his family are members of the Baptist church and he is a deacon for life in that church.

In 1867 Dr. Ward married Miss Amelia B. Clements, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Charles Clements, who later became one of the



well known farmers of Deer Creek township in Miami county. The three children born to the doctor and wife were: Harry Beverly, a graduate of the University of Chicago; Lottie, also college educated at Franklin, Indiana, and Lewis Sampson, who graduated from the Peru high school, and continued his education at the University of Chicago, now deceased. The daughter Lottie married Mr. E. E. Dildine, a railroad man, and they now reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mrs. Ward has passed away to the life eternal—death occurring in January, 1910. The following lines, true to her life and character, are here appended.

#### IN MEMORY

Time brings many changes. Winter disappears in approaching spring. The home of today is not the home of yesterday. Organizations, methods, leaders and workers all have their day, performing their mission, and then disappear from our view. But the fruit remains. Mrs. J. O. Ward of Peru, Indiana, who for more than twenty years served the Logansport Baptist Association as secretary of the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society, has been called from labor to reward. After these twenty years of faithful service what has been wrought? The complete answer can only be made in the search-light of eternity. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors: and their works do follow them."

Done by order of the Woman's Missionary Conference of Logansport Association, this the twenty-fifth day of March, 1910.

Mrs. J. G. Tedford,

Mrs. E. D. Closson,

Mrs. H. Tucker,

Committee.

**JUDGE ALBERT COLE.** In the death of Judge Albert Cole, which occurred in the city of Peru in 1879, passed away one of the men whose works and influence had been most conspicuous in the development of the early fortunes of this city and locality. He was a pioneer in the best sense of the term, a hard worker, a good manager of men, a keen and resourceful business man and faithful and efficient in the performance of his civic responsibilities.

Albert Cole was born in Kensington, Connecticut, May 13, 1790. A son of Stephen and Lucy (Deming) Cole. The family was early established in New England, and both the father and grandfather had been honored residents of that state. Albert Cole was reared in the atmosphere and conditions of his Connecticut home, and at the age of twenty-two he went south to the state of Louisiana, where an older brother was then living, and he became a soldier of the war of 1812 and fought in the memorable battle of New Orleans on the 8th of January, 1815. In August of the same year he returned to Connecticut, and was soon afterwards married to Miss Mary Galpin.

With his bride Judge Cole soon moved west to Zanesville, Ohio, where he bought a farm and also conducted a tannery. In 1833 he became one of the early settlers of Elkhart county, Indiana, and resided at Goshen until July, 1834, at which date he took up his residence in Peru. There he found a partnership with D. R. Bearss, another name well known in pioneer and later history of this city, and they had a store here for about a year. Judge Cole was for a number of years engaged in merchandising in this town which soon became an important point on the old canal and he shared in the business activity of that period. He was honored with

the office of postmaster from 1848 until 1851. On leaving that office he moved to a farm just north of the city, but soon sold that property and thenceforth had most of his capital invested in city real estate. By his private enterprise he was a real contributor to the growth and improvement of this city. In public affairs he was active for many years. In 1840 he was elected judge of the district court, the system of judicial authority at that time comprising one president judge who was chosen by the state legislature, and two associate judges, elected by the people from the locality. President William Harrison appointed Judge Cole to the office of commissioner for the distribution of surplus revenue, and he held various other minor places of responsibility.

Judge Cole, after the death of his first wife, was married in 1857 to Mrs. McClaney of Zanesville. The children were all by his first wife, and were named as follows: Mrs. Emma A. Bearss; Alphonsa; Lucy, who became the wife of Louis D. Atkinson; Mary L., who became the wife of James T. Miller; James O., of Peru; and Ellen, wife of H. G. Fetter.

**JAMES OMAR COLE.** In every city and community are found several families or individuals who for many years have furnished the business initiative, the enterprise and resourcefulness which have made this particular community noteworthy in a business sense, and at the same time their activities and influences have also been strong factors in the civics, and in every department of local affairs. This distinction of influence could be assigned to no one family in the city of Peru more properly than to the Cole family, and during the last half century the representative of the name who has been most prominent in his participations of leadership in business life at Peru and in this county has been Mr. James O. Cole, now a veteran business man of Peru and in the eighty-fifth year of his life. Both at the present time and for many years in the past his name has been associated with the undertakings and institutions which have been regarded as the largest of their kind in this locality, and in a group of perhaps half a dozen men who might be chosen for reasons of power and activities in this city during the last half century, Mr. J. O. Cole would probably deserve the first mention.

James Omar Cole was born at Zanesville, Ohio, December 23, 1828. He is a son of Judge Albert Cole, whose history is so closely interwoven with that of Miami county, and whose career with considerable other data about this notable family may be found in other paragraphs. James O. Cole was six years of age when the family came to Peru, and in this pioneer community, in the little village along the banks of the Wabash and amid the stirring activities which the canal era brought to this locality, he grew up to manhood. When a boy he attended one of the early subscription schools, his parents paying \$2.50 per quarter for his tuition. From this source of learning he acquired the ability to read, write and cipher, and acquired that general knowledge of other common branches. As soon as old enough to work he spent his summers on the farm, and at about the age of twenty became clerk in one of the earliest stores of Peru. In April, 1850, about a year after the country had been startled by the great California gold discoveries, he joined in the general exodus to the new eldorado, and was one of the successful few who laid the basis of their fortunes on the Pacific slope. From Peru he took passage on a canal boat as far as Defiance, Ohio, thence went by canal to Cincinnati, and thence by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. There he embarked on a sailing vessel which landed him on the Isthmus of Panama. He went up the Chagres river as far as Cruces, where it was necessary to disembark and tramp the remaining distance



over the Isthmus to the Pacific side. A skipper about that time received him as a passenger and eighty-two days later landed him at San Francisco, in July, 1850. There were no docks yet constructed in the harbor of San Francisco, and the passengers climbed over the banks and departed on their several missions. Mr. Cole had enough money to pay his way as far as Sacramento, and from there walked to Maryville, about forty miles farther, where he joined a party bound for the mines. In the mines he helped to build a dam at \$8.00 per day, and continued to work as a laborer for some six months. Then having a little capital of his own, he engaged in independent venture as a miner for that same period. In this way he managed to accumulate some six or seven hundred dollars and after a short experience as a clerk in a store he established himself in the mercantile business at Oak Valley in Yuba county.

In 1867, after seventeen years of life in California, most of which was spent in mercantile business, he returned to the east with a modest fortune of about \$30,000. He came home by way of the Isthmus of Panama and on reaching Peru established a brewery in this city. From that time forward Mr. Cole's name is associated with many of the larger enterprises of this city. He was engaged in the brewing business until about 1908. For twenty-five years or more much of his resources and energy had been devoted to the lumber business, and it is in that industry probably that he is best known for his business achievements. For many years he has been connected with the First National Bank of Peru as stockholder, director, and executive official. He is also owner of an ice and cold storage company in Peru and owns some five hundred acres of land in Miami county which he farms with the aid of tenants, and in association with other parties owns large timber tracts and coal properties in West Virginia.

Mr. Cole's career has been one of ceaseless activities and considering his native ability as a business man, and his remarkable energy it is not surprising that he has built up one of the largest fortunes possessed by any individual in Miami county. Yet at the beginning of his career he was dependent entirely upon himself, and has never made a dollar which he has not earned by his own industry or as the results of his early thrift and business management. With it all he has ever retained a reputation for sterling integrity, and has enjoyed the thorough respect as well as admiration of his associates and friends in this community.

Mr. Cole has been twice married. In 1860 he married Miss Rachel Henton, a daughter of Sylvester Henton, and a member of one of the oldest and best known of Miami county's earliest families. She died July 2, 1890, and was the mother of two children: Kate, who is now Mrs. S. F. Porter, and Lewis, who died about 1907, leaving a widow and four children. In 1892 Mr. Cole married Miss Bessie La Bonte.

CHARLES C. HAAG. The career of Charles C. Haag, lawyer and proprietor of the Miami Abstract Company, has been typical of much that is best in the character of American manhood. He is a man of self-achievements having begun his career and responsibility when a boy, and gaining his education and his every step of advancement as a result of his own efforts, and self-sacrificing labors.

Charles C. Haag was born in Marshall county, Indiana, September 12, 1875, a son of John C. and Elizabeth (Warner) Haag, the father being now deceased. He came from Wurtemberg, Germany, at the age of two years and the original spelling of the name was "Haak." Reared on his father's farm in Marshall county, Charles C. Haag attended the country and later the village schools and attained his first higher education at the Rochester Normal College of this state, where he was a student for one

year. For three years he was a student at the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso. It was during his attendance at these two latter institutions, his career as a student at both being intermittent, that he taught and followed several other occupations in order to pay his expenses as a student. Finally by the alternate process of study and hard work he graduated at Valparaiso with the degree of Bachelor of Science in the fall of 1899, having also taken special instructions in law during that time. After leaving college, Mr. Haag become principal of the public school at Carbonado, Montana, where he was employed for one year. During the winter of that year he completed a course in bookkeeping with the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and after the school session was ended he took a place as bookkeeper with the Carbonado Mining Company. Subsequently for one year he was a student in the University of Montana, where he prepared himself especially for the superintendency of the Livingston schools, a position which had been offered him and for which he made preparation by his University work. About this time, however, he was induced to give up his proposed work in Montana and return to his native state and become a partner with his brother, Henry M. Haag, in the practice of law at Peru. Thus, in January, 1902, Mr. Haag located at Peru, and for several years the firm of Haag Brothers was prominent as lawyers. In 1905 the partnership was dissolved, and at that time Mr. Charles C. Haag undertook the organization of the Miami County Abstract Company. He had associates in this enterprise at first, but has since become the sole owner and is thus proprietor of a very large and important business. Though the management of the Abstract Company requires most of his time and energies he has never fully retired from the practice of law, especially in probate work. To the abstract business he has since added departments of fire insurance and loans, and his offices are now the medium for the transaction of a very large patronage.

Mr. Haag is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church. His fraternal affiliations are with the Knights of Pythias and the Loyal Order of Moose. On June 12, 1907, he married Miss Georgia E. Dice of Peru. One son, Charles Russell, was born to their marriage on September 18, 1909. The mother died ten days after the birth of her son on September 28. On September 14, 1912, Mr. Haag married his present wife, Marie Cox, who for a number of years had been assistant superintendent of the Peru public schools. Mrs. Haag is a native of Miami county and was educated in Peru city schools. She was also a student of the State University, and was a teacher in the city. She is a daughter of William H. and Elizabeth (Brooks) Cox, both of whom are residents of the city of Peru, Indiana. Mr. Haag and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

BENJAMIN F. BARGERHUFF is proving through experience and successful operation that the same methods that make for prosperity in other lines can be profitably applied in the conduct of farming. The good business man does not rest content with a single purchase of land, provided he sees opportunities for further investment. With an eye to the future, he buys, makes improvements, disposes of his property, and invests the proceeds in other lands of larger extent upon which he can make his experience avail him a profit. It takes keen insight into existing conditions, a realization of future possibilities, a thorough knowledge of realty values, and a willingness to work industriously and faithfully to accomplish a full measure of success along these lines, but the reward is commensurate with the labor expended. Mr. Bargerhuff



is now known as one of the substantial agriculturists of Clay township, where he has spent his entire life having been born in this township, August 29, 1854, a son of John and Sarah (Biggs) Bargerhuff, and a grandson of John Bargerhuff and John Biggs.

The father of Mr. Bargerhuff came to Miami county, Indiana, in 1837, from West Virginia, and settled first in Washington township. He subsequently made several changes, and during his lifetime took up three claims and cleared them all from the timber. He was a good and successful agriculturist and passed his entire life in the cultivation of the soil. Benjamin F. Bargerhuff received his education in the public schools, and was reared to the work of the farm, being thoroughly trained in the numerous duties so necessary to be known by the agriculturist who would get the best results from his land. He remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-two years of age, at which time his father, in recognition of his faithful services, deeded him twenty acres of land, on which the young man erected a small house and log barn, as well as several outhouses, and cleared, drained and ditched the property. Afterwards he sold this twenty acres at a handsome profit and purchased eighty acres of land, and after clearing it and putting it under cultivation, purchased twenty-five acres adjoining it on the south, but of this he subsequently disposed, and purchased eighty acres more. He now has an excellent property of 160 acres, all under cultivation, with a modern home, a large and commodious barn, and substantial outbuildings, while his machinery is of the most modern manufacture, and everything about the property bespeaks the presence of thrift, industry and good management. Among his associates Mr. Bargerhuff enjoys the reputation of being an honorable man of business, whose success has been achieved through honorable and straightforward methods. He has given the greater part of his attention to his farming operations, but has not been unmindful of the duties of citizenship, and was elected supervisor of Clay township on the Democratic ticket. His fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of Pythias, and, with his family, he attends the Universalist Church.

In 1876 Mr. Bargerhuff was married to Miss Ellen Sherick, daughter of David and Louise (Fishtoon) Sherick, the former born in Pennsylvania, and the latter in Dayton, Ohio. They came to Miami county at an early date, and here reared a family of nine children. Mr. and Mrs. Bargerhuff have had five children, namely: John F., born in 1881, an engineer living at Peru, Indiana, who married Bertha Ellars; George, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Benjamin E., who married Saidie King, and has one child; Viola Belle, who married John Holcomb; and Grover A., who is single and resides with his parents.

**CLEMENT GRAVES.** In a community where farming and stock men are successful and prosperous in the great majority of instances, Clement Graves holds a foremost position in Bunker Hill as a capable man of business. His farm is not an extensive one, but it is a highly cultivated and well kept place, and yields an abundant return to its owner, from season to season. Mr. Graves is known for a man of excellent judgment in all matters pertaining to agriculture, and has long been a member of the Board of Agriculture,—one of the leading organizations of the county. He comes of a family that settled in Cass county and Miami county two generations ago, and men of his name have been foremost in the farming business for many years.

Clement Graves is a son of George and Samantha (Fickle) Graves. The father, who is a son of Joseph Graves, was born in Decatur county, Indiana, and from there he moved into Cass county when he had entered upon independent farm life, still later entering Miami county and here

locating permanently. The year 1856 marked their settlement in Miami county, and the father still makes his home on the place he began to occupy there. The land was covered with a dense growth of timber at the time when George Graves took possession, and he experienced every hardship with his family that is known to primitive life in the wilderness. He built a log house and there the family continued until 1866, when they built a fine farm house. This was the finest place of its kind in the county at that time, and was built of the very best material to be found, a high order of workmanship entering into the makeup of the place, and the whole being well worthy of the energy and thought that the owner put into the work. It stood until a year ago when it was burned to the ground. The farm, which was eighty acres in extent, was located by Joseph Graves, the grandfather, many years prior to the time when George Graves settled upon it, and he and his sons labored long and faithfully to reclaim the land and make possible the gathering of a yearly crop from its fertile soil. Of the five children of George and Samantha Graves, Clement is the youngest of four boys, the others being A. E. Graves, W. P. Graves and O. L. Graves, while a sister, Pearl, is unmarried and is still at the old home place.

Clem Graves continued at home until about 1888, when he launched out into independent farming and stock-raising. From the start he centered his attention upon the breeding of Hereford cattle, and he was the owner of the celebrated Dale, the Hereford bull that held the championship over all breeds for five years, and finally sold for ten thousand dollars. He was also the owner of Dollie Fifth, for three years champion, and selling for thirty-one hundred and fifty dollars. He has ever manifested the greatest pride in the products of his stables, and is known widely in Indiana for the character of his stock and as a careful and successful breeder. Long a member of the Board of Agriculture, he was on January 1, 1913, elected president of the board, and his standing in agricultural circles in the state is of a high order.

It was in about 1895 that Mr. Graves bought his present place, but he has bought and sold a number of fine farms in the interim. He is no longer so extensively interested in cattle breeding as he was in former years, although he still keeps up the work to some degree, and may still be reckoned with the successful breeders of the community.

In 1891 Mr. Graves was married to Hattie Bennett, the daughter of James and Ella (Sharp) Bennett. Mr. Graves is a Mason of Bunker Hill lodge, a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Peru and of the Knights of Pythias at Bunker Hill, in all of which he is popular and prominent. The aged parents of Mr. Hill still reside on their old home place, and are highly esteemed and held in sincere friendship by many who have long known them and are cognizant of their many excellent qualities of heart and mind. They, too, have seen success and gained a pleasing measure of the prosperity that must ever attend the honest and sturdy efforts of those who look to the soil for the fruits of their labors and they are enjoying in their later years the rewards of well spent lives.

**EVERY P. TUDOR.** As general manager, secretary and treasurer of the Peru Mercantile Company, Mr. Tudor has one of the most responsible and prominent positions in the business affairs of the mercantile district of Peru. Among his fellow merchants and in all classes of local citizenship, he is regarded as a man of the strictest integrity, and of an ability which has brought him up from the first grade of business service to a place where he has no cause to envy any of his associates. Among local business men there is probably no better example of a career which



has been one of self-advancement rather than due to influence and family connection, his own industry and ambition having been entirely responsible for his successive promotion in business life.

Avery P. Tudor was born in Butler township of this county, February 4, 1861, being one of the three children, two of whom are now living, born to Joshua C. and Rachel A. (Lieurance) Tudor. On the paternal side the ancestry is English, and the Tudor family have been residents in America since the early years of the seventeenth century. The maternal ancestry is French. Joshua C. Tudor, the father, was a carpenter by trade, and was for many years engaged in farming. He moved from Licking county, Ohio, to Miami county in 1855, and became a settler in the southeast corner of Butler township. The first home of the family in that vicinity was a cabin which had been erected some years before, and to a large degree they experienced the pioneer conditions which still prevailed in this section. The family came to Peru in 1871 and in this city the father followed his trade of carpenter until his death in 1877. His wife had died in 1876.

Avery P. Tudor was left an orphan at the age of fifteen but even before that time had begun to work in order to procure means to buy his clothing and to pay for his tuition in school. He attained practically all his education in the Peru schools and was graduated from the high school of this city in June, 1878. With this equipment of school training, in September, 1878, at the age of seventeen, he was given a position by George C. Miller in the hardware department of what was then the leading store of Kilgore, Shirk & Company. In January of the following year he was transferred to the dry goods department and continued in this employment until he had become second in authority in the dry goods department, the manager of which was then Henry Meinhardt. When Mr. Meinhardt resigned in 1885, going into business for himself, Mr. Tudor succeeded him as manager and buyer of the dry goods department. His close attention to business, and a ready ability in every service demanded of him, kept Mr. Tudor in the constant path of progress. He was manager of the dry goods department of this store until January 1, 1902, at which date the firm was reorganized. The business was then incorporated under the present title of the Peru Mercantile Company, of which Mr. Tudor was elected secretary, treasurer and general manager. Mr. Miller had disposed of his holdings in this establishment, and Mr. Tudor had since then been the executive head and real spirit of the entire business.

In politics Mr. Tudor is a Republican, without any aspirations for office, but has always lent his cordial cooperation to every movement for local improvement and good government. Fraternally he is affiliated with Peru Miami Lodge No. 67, F. & A. M., and with the R. A. M. No. 62 of Peru, Indiana. He and his wife are both members of the Baptist church.

On February 9, 1881, Mr. Tudor married Miss Leona May Mercer. They are the parents of two daughters, named as follows: Elizabeth Ann, who was born December 21, 1861, and who died at the age of 21 on May 23, 1902; and Mary Elinor, now the wife of Charles Spurgeon Morris of Indianapolis.

**WILLIAM E. MOWBRAY.** To this honored citizen and native son of Miami county is given the distinction of being the dean of the bar of the city of Peru, and he is also one of the oldest of the native citizens still resident of the county, where, as may well be inferred, he stands as a representative of a sterling pioneer family. Mr. Mowbray has long held prestige as one of the able and prominent members of the bar of this

section of the state and has been engaged in the active practice of his profession for nearly half a century, within which he has not only been concerned in much important litigation and general law business but has also stood exponent of the most liberal and loyal citizenship, with deep and abiding interest in all that touches the civic and material welfare of his native county. He was one of the gallant sons of Miami county who went forth in defense of the Union when the integrity of the nation was thrown into jeopardy through armed rebellion, and in the "piping times of peace" he has shown the same fidelity and earnestness of purpose which gave him high honors as a valiant soldier of the republic in the Civil war.

Mr. Mowbray was born in Peru, judicial center of Miami county, on the 10th of September, 1841, and the memories of his boyhood days recall Peru as a pioneer village in the midst of a district in which the march of development was advancing slowly but surely. His father, William R. Mowbray, was a native of Ross county, Ohio, where he was born on the 1st of October, 1806, only a few years after the admission of the fine old Buckeye state to the Union, and his parents were numbered among the early settlers of Ross county, where he himself was reared amidst the conditions and influences of the pioneer days. He was afforded the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period and there learned the trade of shoemaker. In 1834 he came to Peru, Indiana, to which place he was attracted by the reading of an advertisement for the sale of village lots in the spring of that year. Believing that the new town would offer a good field for work at his trade, he came to Peru in the autumn of that year, and in the little shop which he here established he manufactured the first pair of shoes ever made in Peru, the work, as a matter of course, having all been done by hand. He thus became one of the pioneer business men of the town and here he continued to follow the work of his trade until 1845, when he removed to a tract of land which he had secured from the government, in Harrison township. To the reclamation and improvement of this farm he gave his close attention during the residue of his active career, within which he developed one of the valuable farm properties of the county. He continued to reside on his old homestead until his death, which occurred on the 29th of January, 1881, and he made his life count for good in its every relation. He was a man of superior intellectual powers, of broad views and mature judgment, and his impregnable integrity of character combined with his unvarying kindness and consideration to give him secure vantage-place in the confidence and high regard of all who knew him. He contributed his quota to the social and industrial development and upbuilding of Miami county and his name merits enduring place on the roster of its honored pioneers.

Prior to his removal from Ohio to Indiana William R. Mowbray was united in marriage to Miss Harriet S. Fenimore, who likewise was a representative of a sterling pioneer family of Ohio, and she proved a true helpmeet, as well as a devoted mother. She was summoned to eternal rest on the 17th of June, 1889, and her memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her gentle influence. Of the ten children only two are now living—William E., of this review, and an older sister, Marie H. Woolpert, wife of Charles Woolpert, of Kalkaska, Michigan. In politics William R. Mowbray was originally an old-line Whig, but he gave his allegiance to the Republican party from virtually the time of its organization until the close of his long and useful life. He was one of the first to serve as treasurer of Miami county and held this responsible office at a time when the incidental salary was but one hundred dollars a year. He was later elected justice of the peace, and of



this office he continued the able and valued incumbent for many years. He was a man of medium height, alert and energetic, and of equable temperament. Strong in his convictions, he was never intolerant of the opinions of others, and his judgment was mature and marked by sincerity, so that in his long service as justice of the peace he made the office justify its title. His advice was sought by his neighbors in connection with personal and public affairs, and he wielded much influence in the community that long represented his home and that figured as the stage of his earnest and well ordered endeavors. In the early days he was a prominent member of a militia company raised in the county, and both he and his wife were zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they were prominently identified with the organization of the church of that denomination in Peru.

William E. Mowbray has fully sustained the prestige of a name that has long been honored in the annals of the history of Miami county, and as a boy he gained thorough fellowship with the arduous labors of the pioneer farm, a discipline which gave to him the vital energy and strength of constitution that have served him well in the later years of his life. He availed himself fully of the advantages of the common schools of the day and was attending the public schools of Peru at the inception of the Civil war. His youthful loyalty and patriotism did not long permit him to remain inactive in the matter of defending a righteous cause, and on the 13th of August, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Twelfth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. On the 30th of the same month he participated with his command in the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, and here he and the other members of his company were captured by the enemy. He was held a prisoner of war until the 2d of the following month,—a period of about two days, and was then granted a parole. In October his exchange was effected, and he then rejoined his command, with which he was in service on guard duty in and around the city of Memphis, Tennessee, and later on the Yazoo river, where his regiment assisted in checking the advance of the forces of General Joseph E. Johnston, who was threatening the Union lines before Vicksburg. After the fall of that city his command pursued Johnston's army to Jackson, Mississippi, after which it remained in camp until October, when it marched to Chattanooga and arrived in time to participate in the battle of Missionary Ridge, under command of General Sherman. In this memorable engagement he received a gun-shot wound in the right arm, breaking radius, besides which he suffered at the same time a fracture of the ilium, or expanded bone of the hip. His injury was such as to incapacitate him for further field services and on account of his disability he was given his honorable discharge, on the 23d of November, 1864, and with the rank of corporal.

Prior to entering the army Mr. Mowbray had taken up the study of law under effective preceptorship and after his return home he resumed his technical reading. In August, 1865, he was admitted to the bar of his native state, and with the exception of an interim of about eighteen months he has been continuously engaged in the active practice of his profession in Peru during the long intervening years, which have been marked by large and worthy accomplishment on his part, with the result that he has for many years held definite precedence as one of the representative members of the bar of Miami county. He retains a large and important clientage and has at all times shown a high and practical appreciation of the dignity and responsibility of his chosen profession, of whose unwritten ethical code he has been an unwavering exemplar. Broad-minded and public-spirited in his civic attitude, Mr. Mowbray has done all in his power to foster those enterprises and influence which

conserve the well-being of the community and though he has never sought public office he has been aligned as a stalwart and effective advocate of the principles and policies for which the Republican party has stood sponsor. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he manifests his abiding interest in his old comrades in arms by retaining membership in W. B. Reyburn Post, No. 56, Grand Army of the Republic, in his home city. Both he and his wife are earnest and valued members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Peru, and Mrs. Mowbray has long been a popular factor in the representative social activities of the community.

On the 10th of August, 1865, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mowbray to Miss Mary Whitezel, who was born at Boone county, Indiana, and who is a daughter of the late Balthazer Whitezel, an honored pioneer of Miami county. Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray became the parents of twelve children, of whom three sons and two daughters are living. The sons living are: Frederick W. Mowbray, of the lumber company of Mowbray & Robinson, Cincinnati, Ohio; Merrill Mowbray, of Chicago, Illinois; and Capt. Ralph H. Mowbray of the faculty at Culver Military Academy. The daughters are Stella R., wife of Allen G. Trippier, a street contractor, and Clara A. Mowbray, who is at home with her parents.

FRANK HOSTETLER. It is most gratifying to note that a goodly quota of the native sons of Miami county have not wavered in their allegiance to the same and that within its borders they have found ample scope for the winning of definite and worthy success. To be classified in this list is Mr. Hostetler, who is a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of the county and who is now the efficient and valued incumbent of the office of sheriff of his native county. He has been closely identified with the agricultural interests of this section of the state and is the owner of a valuable farm property in the township in which he was born, besides which he proved a successful and popular teacher in the district schools of the county, where he gave attention to the work of the pedagogic profession for several years.

Mr. Hostetler was born on the old homestead farm of the family, in Erie township, this county, and the date of his nativity was March 22, 1859. His father, Jacob Hostetler, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on the 8th of January, 1826, and was a son of Benjamin and Catherine (Miller) Hostetler, pioneer settlers of the old Buckeye state. Jacob Hostetler was reared and educated in Ohio and there continued to reside until 1847, when he came to Indiana and numbered himself among the sturdy pioneers of Erie township, Miami county, where he secured a tract of one hundred acres of wild land and instituted the reclamation of a farm in the midst of the forest. He erected as the family domicile a log house of the primitive type common to the locality and period, and after thus providing a home he took unto himself a wife, in the person of Miss Elizabeth Shelter, their marriage having been solemnized on the 25th of June, 1848, and Mrs. Hostetler likewise having been born and reared in Ohio. The young couple established their Lares and Penates in the pioneer log cabin and the same became representative of the ideal associations that should apply to the word home but which are too much in abeyance in these latter days of migratory impulses on the part of the American people. Enduring together the hardships and toils which ever fall to the lot of the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Hostetler developed a productive farm and reared their large family of children to lives of usefulness and honor. Jacob Hostetler was a man of strong individuality and broad views and was a leader in sentiment and action



in his community, where he ever commanded unqualified popular confidence and esteem. He was a staunch supporter of the principles and policies of the Democratic party and he served with ability in the office of township trustee. There were few dramatic incidents in his career, which was marked by earnest industry and generous accomplishment, and though he lived a simple and unostentatious life he accounted well to himself and to the world as an upright and valuable member of the community to whose civic and industrial development he contributed his quota. He passed from the stage of his mortal endeavors on the 12th of November, 1892, and his cherished and devoted wife survived him by a decade. She passed to eternal rest in May, 1912, venerable in years and a devout member of the United Brethren church, and her memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her gentle and kindly influence. Of the eleven children the firstborn died in infancy, and the others are all living,—six sons and four daughters. The names of Jacob and Elizabeth (Shelter) Hostetler merit enduring place on the roll of the honored pioneers of Miami county.

Frank Hostetler, the seventh in order of birth of the eleven children, found his childhood and youth compassed by the sturdy discipline of the home farm, and he early gained wholesome fellowship with honest toil and endeavor, the while he waxed strong in mental and physical powers. He made good use of the advantages afforded to him in the local schools, as is shown by the fact that the discipline thus gained enabled him to qualify as a teacher in the district schools, in which he taught one term, and then furthered his own education by attending for a time the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute. For several years thereafter he gave his attention to teaching in the country schools during the winter terms and continued his active association with farm work during the intervening periods. He finally engaged in farming in an independent way, in Erie township. He had been one of the leaders in the ranks of the Democratic party in his section of the county and had served three terms as trustee of Erie township. In 1910 he was elected county sheriff, by a gratifying majority, and his administration has been marked by circumspection, fidelity and discrimination, so that he made an admirable record during his first term and was retained in office by re-election, his present term expiring January 1, 1915. He is indefatigable in the discharge of his official duties and in the maintenance of law and order, and he shows neither fear nor favor as executive in the important position of which he is the valued incumbent.

He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 52, the Tribe of Ben Hur, and the Loyal Order of Moose, and he holds membership in the United Brethren church.

April 24, 1884, recorded the marriage of Mr. Hostetler to Miss Sarah A. Dice, who likewise was born and reared in Erie township, and who was a daughter of the late Michael Dice, a representative farmer of that township. She died in October, 1907. The five children of this union are Ray E., Ralph W., Mark B., Eva Lois, and Frank L.

THOMAS M. BUSBY. Through almost forty years Thomas M. Busby has been numbered among the citizens of Miami county, and for the greater portion of this time has been accounted one of its leading and progressive agriculturists. It is not alone, however, in agricultural matters that he is widely known and has made such a distinct success, for in public life he has taken no less prominent part and has rendered his fellow-citizens distinguished service. Mr. Busby has spent his entire life in the Hoosier State, being a native of Madison county, where he

was born December 1, 1843, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (McAlister) Busby, and a grandson of Isaac Busby and John McAlister.

Silas Busby was born in Wayne county, Indiana, and as a lad was in the habit of driving a team to Cincinnati, Ohio, a journey which consumed four days, and his bed at night being made in the wagon. From Wayne county he moved to Madison county at an early day, and there in young manhood took up the vocation of agriculturist, in which he has been engaged all of his life. He still resides on the old homestead in Madison county, advanced in years, but still active in his daily routine of duties.

Thomas M. Busby received his education in the little log schoolhouse of his vicinity in Madison county, the terms being limited to three months in the winters. Like other farmers' sons of his day, he spent the other months of the year in the work of the farm, and there was but little time for the recreation of youth. However, he was taught to be industrious, energetic and self-reliant, and at the time of his marriage he was able to locate on a property of his own, thoroughly familiar with every detail of farm work. In 1874 he left Madison county and came to Miami county, here settling on his present property, which at that day, however, bore but little resemblance to the fine farm of today. The buildings that stood at that time have all been improved, other structures have been erected, and modern improvements of every character have been made. The property now consists of 106½ acres, all in a high state of cultivation, the land returning excellent crops for Mr. Busby's intelligent labor. He has devoted the greater part of his time to general farming, and the success which he has attained in his efforts gives ample evidence of his skill in his chosen vocation. His operations in the business world have been such as to gain him general confidence and wide popularity, and few men in Jackson township can boast of a wider circle of friends. Mr. Busby has attended the Friends' Church and liberally supported its movements. A Democrat in his political views, for three years he was superintendent of the turnpike, acted in the capacity of county councilman for some time, and at present is serving as a member of the board of county commissioners. He has brought to his public service a high ideal of the duties of official position, and his work has but served to raise him in general public esteem. Mr. Busby has interested himself to some extent in fraternal matters, and now holds membership in Converse Lodge No. 320, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and Converse Lodge No. 601, of the Masonic body.

On December 11, 1864, Mr. Busby was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Ellen Mars, daughter of Nathan Mars, and to this union there have been born three children, namely: Augustus E., who married Mary Weiss, of Madison county, and is now engaged in farming in that county; Silas E., who married Carrie Hustage, and now makes his home in Jackson township; and Hester, who became the wife of William York, and lives in Cass county, where he follows farming.

**BENJAMIN E. WALLACE.** The circus business, which is most peculiarly an American institution and which has reached its crowning distinction in this country, has long had an able and popular representative in the person of this well known and highly honored citizen of Peru. The Wallace Show, or circus, has been signally free from flamboyant policies and has gained a high reputation as one of the country's leading attractions in this popular line of entertainment, clean and effective in the operation of its various departments and conducted on a scale that has made it one of the highest class. In proximity to the thriving



little city of Peru, which has been his home for forty years, Mr. Wallace maintains the winter quarters of his show, and the same has had marked influence in fostering various industrial and business enterprises in Miami county, the while it is a source of pride to citizens of all classes. Mr. Wallace is widely known as a progressive, able and reliable business man, and his interest in his home city has been shown in many helpful ways. Here he has varied capitalistic investments of important order, in addition to the extensive affairs of his great amusement enterprise, and he has won success and high personal honors through his sterling character and well directed efforts. No history of Miami county could be consistent with itself were there failure to record specific recognition to this popular and representative citizen.

Of staunch Scottish lineage, Benjamin R. Wallace claims the fine old Keystone state as the place of his nativity, and he is a scion of a family that was early founded in that commonwealth. He was born at Johnstown, Cambria county, Pennsylvania, on the 14th of October, 1847, and is a son of Ephraim and Rebecca (Elliott) Wallace, who had a large family of children four sons and five daughters. Ephraim Wallace was an industrious and independent member of the farming community in Cambria county until 1863, when he came to Indiana and established his home on a farm in Washington township, where his death occurred in July of the following year, his wife surviving him by a number of years.

In the schools of his native state Benjamin E. Wallace gained his early educational discipline and his initial experiences in the practical affairs of life were those gained in connection with the work of the home farm. He was a lad of about sixteen years at the time of the family removal to Miami county, Indiana, and about one year later, in February, 1865, he gave distinctive evidence of his youthful patriotism and loyalty by enlisting for service as a soldier in the Civil war. He became a member of the Thirteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but had just reached the stage of activities in Virginia when General Lee surrendered and the long and weary conflict came to an end. He received his honorable discharge and soon afterward initiated his independent career by engaging in the livery business in Peru. With this line of enterprise he continued to be actively and successfully identified for eighteen years, and in 1884 he withdrew from the same to turn his attention to the circus business, his predilection for which was intensified by an inherent love of horses, his father and other forbears having been great fanciers of the noble animal. He began the show business upon a very modest scale and through careful policies, progressive methods and constant effort to give the best possible entertainment to the public, he met with constantly growing popular favor and patronage, amplified his business as rapidly as circumstances justified and finally developed the great shows which bear his name and to the management of which he continues to give the major part of his time and attention. He keeps his stock menagerie up to the highest standard and during the show season gives employment to about six hundred persons. His winter quarters are of the best order and include the ownership and operation of nineteen farms in Miami county, the same having an aggregate area of more than two thousand acres. The commissary and stock-ration departments of his show business have placed insistent demands upon the agricultural resources of Miami county and the mere quartering of his extensive shows in the county has had distinctive value in the supporting and furthering of various industrial and commercial enterprises, and thus in fostering the civic prosperity of the community.

Mr. Wallace is president of the Wabash Valley Trust Company, of

Peru, which is one of the substantial and representative financial and fiduciary institutions of this part of the state, and he is also a stockholder in various other industrial and commercial enterprises that are conserving the prestige of his home city. In politics Mr. Wallace accords a stalwart allegiance to the Republican party, and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. He is widely known throughout Indiana and other states of the Union and has a wide circle of staunch friends.

In the year 1874 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wallace to Miss Florence Fuller. No children have been born to this marriage. The Wallace home on North Broadway is one of beauty and comfort with expansive and beautifully adorned grounds.

CHARLES E. CORY has since 1895 been identified with the circus business in varied capacities, and in recent years has held the position of assistant manager of the business of Benjamin E. Wallace, who has long been prominent in the show business. Mr. Cory was born in Peru, Indiana, on May 11, 1871, and is a son of David H. and Mary (Fuller) Cory.

David H. Cory, together with his father-in-law, Reuben Fuller, for many years conducted the Bearss Hotel in this city, and in 1874 removed to St. Paul, where Mr. Fuller died. The Corys later returned to Indiana and settled in Richmond, where the father engaged in railroad work.

Charles E. Cory received his early education in the public and high schools of the cities wherein he was living in those early days, and when he was seventeen years old branched out for himself in the employ of Rugg, Fuller & Company, Mr. Fuller being his maternal uncle. This concern was engaged in the plumbing and steam heating supply business, and Mr. Cory continued in their employ until 1890, when the firm was succeeded by the Crence Company, with whom he continued until 1894. In the latter year he returned to Peru and in the spring of 1895 entered the employ of Benjamin E. Wallace, who has long been in the circus business. Mr. Cory continued with Mr. Wallace in one capacity and another, and is today, and has been for a number of years, assistant manager of the great show business owned by Mr. Wallace.

In 1909 Mr. Cory married Miss Mary Murdock, of LaFayette, Indiana, and they have three children: Mary, born in 1910; James M., born in 1911, and David Wallace, born in 1912. Mr. Cory is a Chapter Mason at Peru, and is a member of the Commandery at Wabash, and is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is popular and prominent in his business, and is well and favorably known in Peru and Miami county, where his life has been an open book since he was born in this community some forty years ago.

HENRY BERGER. Among those pioneers who founded homes in the midst of the wilderness of Miami county, one whose activities were a credit to himself, and now a kindly memory in the hearts of his descendants was the late Henry Berger, who founded the well known family of that name, now represented by a prosperous farmer of Perry township, and in the same generation by the present county clerk of Miami county, A. S. Berger.

Henry Berger was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, June 17, 1826, and in 1847, the year in which he arrived at his majority, reached Miami county. His first settlement was in what is now Union township, where he worked industriously, and made the start which enabled him on January 19, 1850, to marry Lavina Swank. Having thus given hostages to fortune, he and his bride moved to what is now



Perry township, where he bought twenty-five acres of woodland, and proceeded to build a log cabin in which he and his wife started house-keeping. As the years passed by, seven children came into their household, named Charles, Abraham, William, Philip, Henry, Mary and Sarah. During the early days in Miami county a disease known as milk sickness was prevalent, and was much dreaded by all residents. It often proved fatal, and one of the afflictions of the Berger family was the death of the son Philip from this disease when six years of age. All the rest of the children above mentioned, grew to manhood and womanhood and have filled honorable positions in life.

In 1861 Henry Berger enlisted in the service of his country, and was one of the officers of the First Cavalry, the Twenty-Eighth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. When the war was over, he again took up his career as a farmer, and from the twenty-five acres which he had first secured in the midst of the green woods, he gradually developed his holdings and by industry and good management prospered until he was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres, and was regarded as one of the successful farmers in the northern part of Miami county. Thus for more than half a century Henry Berger lived and did his part as a member of the community, and after a short illness from pneumonia, died on January 31, 1899, one of the honored old settlers. His widow survived him three years and died December 29, 1902.

Of their children, Abraham Berger, father of Aaron S. Berger, the present county clerk was born in Perry township, and still lives on his old homestead there, one of the prosperous farmers and an influential citizen. Abraham Berger married Mary Landis, and they became the parents of three children.

**AARON S. BERGER.** The efficient and popular county clerk of Miami county is one of the native sons of the county who has here found ample opportunity for productive effort and for the gaining of success worthy of the name, the while his present official incumbency vouches for the staunch hold he has upon the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has lived from the time of his nativity. Prior to assuming his present important post Mr. Berger has made an excellent record as a teacher in the public schools and had also carried forward the work of preparing himself for the legal profession, to which he still intends to turn his attention, as at the present time he is a member of the bar of the Miami Circuit Court.

Mr. Berger was born in Perry township, this county, on the 6th of May, 1880, and is a son of Abraham and Mary (Landis) Berger, who still reside on their old homestead farm in that township, where the father has long been a representative exponent of the agricultural interests of the county. He is one of the honored and influential citizens of Perry township and is a Democrat in his political proclivities. They have three children, of whom the subject of this review was the second in order of birth.

The invigorating and sturdy discipline of the home farm compassed the boyhood and early youth of Aaron S. Berger, and his preliminary educational advantages were those of the district schools, in which he applied himself with such diligence and ambition that he proved himself eligible for pedagogic honors, as he began teaching in the country schools when nineteen years of age. Through his earnings in this vocation he defrayed the expenses of a course of study in the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business College, at Valparaiso, an institution now known as Valparaiso University. He attended this school for the greater part of three years, and in the meanwhile he determined to

prepare himself for the legal profession. With this end in view, and with characteristic energy and ambition, he began reading law under the preceptorship of the well known firm of Bailey & Cole, of Peru, and he continued his technical studies under such auspices from 1901 to the spring of 1903, having in the meanwhile continued to devote his attention to teaching in the public schools at intervals.

In the spring of 1903 Mr. Berger assumed the position of deputy county clerk, under William H. Augur, and he retained this incumbency for nearly eight years, within which he gained a thorough knowledge of all details of the service of the county clerk's office, so that he was distinctively eligible for the nomination given to him in 1910 for the office of clerk. In November of that year he was elected to this office, in which he has since served with distinctive ability and to the satisfaction of the people of the county, his administration having fully justified the popular choice which placed him in office. He is unwavering in his allegiance to the Democratic party and has given effective service in behalf of its cause. Mr. Berger is affiliated with Peru, Miami Lodge, No. 67, Free & Accepted Masons, and Peru Chapter, No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, as well as with the local organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Loyal Order of Moose. He attends and supports the Baptist church in Peru, of which his wife is a zealous member, the while both are popular factors in the representative social activities of their home city.

On the 11th of December, 1907, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Berger to Miss Zona May Moon, who was born and reared in Miami county, and who is a daughter of Rev. F. C. Moon, a representative citizen of Fulton county, Indiana. The two children of this union are fine little twin sons,—Merrill Bertwin and Herrell Bryan.

**JOSEPH H. WAITE.** This veteran citizen of Perry township has a record which deserves this brief memorial in a history of Miami county. He was a pioneer schoolmaster, was a soldier of the Civil war, for many years a merchant at Gilead, and for nearly a quarter of a century has been in charge of the postoffice at that place.

Joseph H. Waite was born a child of Sullivan and Margaret A. Waite in Union, now Allen township, Miami county, March 6, 1839, on a farm where he grew to manhood. In the winters of 1859 to 1861 he taught school at College Corner, two miles west of the present village of Gilead. On July 2, 1861, he enlisted as a soldier in Captain Milton Miner's Company, which afterwards became Company A of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers, commanded by Col. William M. Wheatley. He saw service in Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Tennessee, participated in many minor engagements, was in the siege of Vicksburg and Mobile, and on December 18, 1864, was commissioned first lieutenant of his company. He was mustered out at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on January 15, 1866, and finally discharged at Indianapolis, January 25, of the same year. During the war and his military career two other events occurred which deserve mention. In April, 1862, he was made a master Mason at Rochester, Indiana, in Fulton Lodge, No. 79, A. F. & A. M. About two years later, while at home on a veteran furlough, he was married on May 2, 1864, to Mariette H. Wright. To their union were born four sons and seven daughters, all of whom are living and prosperous. The mother was suddenly stricken while in vigorous health by congestive fever, and after four days' illness passed away November 29, 1881.

Joseph H. Waite served as trustee of Perry township, Miami county, from 1867 to 1870. He has served as postmaster at Gilead more than



twenty-four years and is still the honored incumbent of that office. On December 19, 1882, he opened a general store in his home town, with Jonas Luckenbill as a partner, until 1886, in which year Mr. Luckenbill retired, and Mr. Waite continued as sole proprietor until April 24, 1912. Mr. Waite has recently been appointed notary public, and has taken up at Gilead the real estate business and its kindred lines. On March 13, 1893, he married for his second wife, Susan Rhodes, who passed away August 9, 1909.

Mr. White was born in Methodist Episcopal Church and is still a member. He helped in a small way to organize the Republican party, and has ever remained an earnest advocate of its principles and believes its great work and usefulness is not finished.

Sullivan Waite, his father, was born near Genessee Falls, New York, of Highland Scotch parents in 1802. His grandfather Waite met death while a soldier on the American side in the war of 1812.

His mother subsequently married Joseph Stearnes, and they all moved to Clark county, Ohio, near Springfield, where Sullivan Waite grew to manhood as a farmer. In January, 1838, he married Margaret A. Woods of Champaign county, Ohio. In October, 1838, they emigrated to Indiana, and settled on the farm in Miami county where Joseph H. Waite was born. The parents were people of practical education, were thorough Americans in spirit, were ardent Methodists, although with no hint of sectarianism, strongly in favor of temperance and were free-soil advocates. Sullivan Waite died from an injury sustained by a kick from his favorite horse on April 29, 1850. His devoted wife remained faithful to his memory, never married again and reared her family of four boys and two girls, except one daughter who passed away in 1852. The boys joined the army. One was captured at Winchester, Virginia, and died in Salisbury Prison in North Carolina, January 5, 1865. Joseph Waite has two brothers and one sister still living.

**FLORENCE SULLIVAN.** In the retired citizen, Florence Sullivan, Peru possesses one of its most interesting men, of a personality modified and refined by such a variety of experience and activity as seldom are the lot of any one individual. It is a long lifetime, now prolonged to nearly ninety years upon which Mr. Sullivan has retrospect. A resident of Peru for about a quarter of a century, this period of his life has really been the resting portion of his many years. He was a pioneer railroad man. He began building railway lands years before a single road had been constructed across Miami county, and before the east and the middle west had been linked together by railway ties. His career which deserves a longer account, is briefly sketched as follows: Florence Sullivan who was named after his father's brother, who was captain of a whaling vessel which was lost on the banks of New Foundland, was born in County Cork, near Glengariff, one of the prettiest spots in all the world, on August 4, 1826. His parents, Timothy and Johanna (Harrington) Sullivan, immigrated from Ireland to America about the year 1832, and for two years were residents in New York State. Subsequently they came west and located in Washtenaw county, Michigan. Washtenaw county at that time was on the outer fringe of settlement, which had progressed only a few miles west of Detroit. In this primitive region, the parents established a home and remained in the quiet activities of Michigan rural life until their death.

It was in Washtenaw county on the old farm that Florence grew to manhood. His boyhood days were spent largely in helping to clear, to grub the land of its primitive forest growth, and in all the usages

and practices of agriculture and the work usually required of the sons of pioneers. Such schools as existed in Michigan at that time were of the most primitive type, and were supported by private subscriptions and then only for a few weeks each year, and as a result Florence Sullivan obtained only about twelve months schooling altogether throughout his early years. When a young man he began his career as an employe in the construction of a part of the Michigan Central Railway, which was then slowly being built across the state of Michigan. After some six or seven months he was promoted to superintendent of a construction gang and in this position succeeded Lyman J. Gage, who afterwards rose to fame in finance and public affairs as president of the First National Bank of Chicago, and secretary of the United States Treasury.

In April 1852, while still connected with the construction enterprise on the old Michigan Central, Mr. Sullivan took up his residence in Michigan City, Indiana. On July 1, of the same year, he rode into Chicago over the route which he had helped to construct and which was the first railroad to enter Chicago. On the completion of that road he was given charge of a section of road, and while in that employment met with a serious accident, which nearly caused his death. Recovering after a protracted illness, he then obtained employment on the Illinois Central Railroad, and subsequent to that was with the old New Albany and Salem Railway, this line subsequently having become the Monon Railway. In that work he continued until March 1, 1854, at which time he was promoted to assistant roadmaster.

On November 20, 1854, Mr. Sullivan married Miss Anna Quirk, a daughter of Michael Quirk, and for twenty-five years after their marriage made their home in Michigan City. For financial reasons Mr. Sullivan left the service of the New Albany & Salem Railway and for about nine months had charge of two sections on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway. He then became acting roadmaster for the Monon line, and continued as such until the recovery of the regular roadmaster, after which he was for two years conductor of a freight train on the Monon. From freight conductor he was promoted to passenger conductor, and then for fourteen years up to 1871 was roadmaster of the Monon Road. On leaving the Monon, he became road master on the old I. P. & C. R. R. from Michigan City to Peru. In 1883, when this road was leased by the Wabash, his territory extended to Indianapolis and from Logansport to Detroit. When the Lake Erie & Western secured this line as a branch of its larger system, he remained as road master. In November, 1898, he resigned but his resignation was not accepted until the following year.

During his service as Roadmaster of the I. P. & C. R. R. Mr. Sullivan performed some of the most difficult constructing of railroads through the streets of cities. This work was always difficult and owing to the opposition of citizens it could seldom be done without much rioting. On nine occasions he laid tracks through Michigan City and three times through Kokomo. On one occasion at Michigan City Mr. Sullivan undertook the construction of some tracks after Messrs. Thomas and Roy Culvert, government contractors, had failed to do the work. It was thought that the work would have to be given up as the citizens defeated all attempts of the sheriff to maintain order. Mr. Sullivan undertook the work. His workmen had been carefully trained and disciplined by him and marshalling them in proper order he set about and completed the work. That evening, after the work was over, the masterly skill displayed by Mr. Sullivan and the solicitude his men had shown for women and children were warmly praised by Messrs. Culvert, who had failed in the work and also by Mr. Hall, the Presbyterian



minister, who was unstinted in his praise of the care of women and children shown by Mr. Sullivan's men during the riot. This was, probably his most daring piece of work and was witnessed by seven thousand people.

While with the L. E. & W. Ry. he also had an experience with the Pennsylvania Ry. which showed his resourcefulness. The Pennsylvania Ry. desired to put in a crossing at Kokomo across the main tracks of the L. E. and W., but they refused to sign a contract to maintain it. Mr. Sullivan received a telegram asking him to use every effort to delay the construction until the contract had been signed. He went to the place of the proposed crossing and chained a locomotive right on the tracks where the crossing was to be made. The Pennsylvania tried every effort to induce him to allow them to make the crossing. He would not move the engine unless for regular Passenger trains to cross. A fast freight was waiting for the crossing but he refused to release it. The Pennsylvania people went to the judge to have Sullivan arrested, but as they could give no instance of his breaking the law they were unable to get the warrant. They wired to their headquarters and Mr. J. J. Turner, Vice President of the Pennsylvania Ry. came to Kokomo, but Sullivan was obdurate until the contract had been signed. As the fast freight train had been delayed for sixteen hours and as no effort had any effect on Mr. Sullivan, the Pennsylvania Ry. Co., signed the contract and Mr. Sullivan received instructions to permit them to put in the crossing.

In April 1885 Mr. Sullivan moved to Peru, and since the year 1889 has been practically retired from all the active cares of life. In politics he is a Republican, and during his residence at Michigan City served in the city council. The eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are as follows: John H., Mary Ellen, the widow of Joseph Hoban, Caroline F., the wife of Hugh McCaffrey; Florence E., Edward F., Anna, Margaret A., and Flora, the last five being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are members of the Catholic church, and have reared their children in this faith.

**LORENZO HOFFMAN.** For twenty years a contractor and builder in Peru, Mr. Hoffman has attained to rank as one of the leading business men of the county seat, and is representative of one of the oldest families of Miami county. For nearly seventy years the name Hoffman has been identified with this county. Throughout this time it has always been associated with honorable efforts, industrious achievements, has always been the fruit of the Hoffman enterprise, and much quiet public service has come from the different members of the family during all these years.

Lorenzo Hoffman was born in Perry township, of this county, October 10, 1858. He was one of a large family of thirteen children, eight of whom are now living. The parents were John and Sussannah (Seidner), both of whom were born in the state of Pennsylvania. John Hoffman was sixteen years of age when the family came west and located in 1846 in Perry township of Miami county. At that time the greater parts of this county was still under the domain of nature. Bears and wolves and other wild animals abounded and even the Indians had not all departed. Much pioneer work awaited the coming of every settler at that time, and John Hoffman had his full share in the caring and grubbing of the forest growth and planting of virgin fields to grain and all the industry connected with the development of the home from the wilderness. His life was one of hard work and he always attended strictly to his own business, though as a neighbor he was known for the

kindness of his heart and the generous disposition of his means and personal services for the benefit of his fellow men. While his name did not become identified with the conspicuous rules, there can hardly be a doubt that it is due to the quiet conscientious efforts of such a citizen that the work, the important work of the world gets itself accomplished. He died a member of the Church of God, October 23, 1884. His widow survived him until February 1902.

Lorenzo Hoffman was reared on his father's farm in Perry township and attained such education as was offered in the neighborhood district schools. His career had been one of self advancement and self achievements, and practically all that he has gained, and his success has been a generous one, has been the result of his own well-directed effort. At the age of twenty three he left home and became a farm laborer at 75c a day. When he was twenty-six years of age he began a two year apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade. Having become a skillful workman in this line he began carpenter and contractor business on his own account, and has been one of the leaders in this line of enterprise for nearly thirty years.

On December 1, 1883, Mr. Lorenzo Hoffman married Miss Elmina Kesling, a daughter of Titus Kesling. In January 1892, Mr. Hoffman moved to Peru, which city has since been his home. He has devoted all his attention to contracting, and enjoys a large business in this line. In politics a Democrat Mr. Hoffman is now serving his second term as a member of the Peru school board, of which he has been treasurer since he took membership in the body. As one of the officials of the school board, he helped design and build the splendid new Peru high school building, a structure which is a credit to the city. Mr. Hoffman has also served in Democratic county conventions and was a member of the state convention that nominated Hon. John W. Kern for the office of governor and also was a member of the convention that nominated Hon. Thomas R. Marshall for the same office. Fraternally Mr. Hoffman is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Independent Order of Foresters, and the Modern Woodmen of America. For thirty years he and his wife have enjoyed a happy married companionship, and in this time three sons and one daughter have been born to their union. Irven M., Walter C., Ruth M., and Merrill J. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman are members of the Methodist church.

**EDD B. WETHEROW.** Admirable executive ability and clear conception of the demands of effective public school work have made Mr. Wetherow an influential and valued factor in educational affairs in Indiana and he is giving a most resourceful and successful administration in the office of superintendent of schools for Miami county, of which position he has been the energetic, progressive and popular incumbent since 1907. His regime has been marked by distinctive elevation of the school standards in his jurisdiction, as he has gained the earnest cooperation of an exceptionably able corps of teachers, and also that of the people of the county. He has been indefatigable in his work and in promoting a general appreciation of the inestimable value of the public schools when ordered according to the best modern pedagogic principles. His reelection to office at the expiration of his first term affords the most significant voucher for the popular estimate placed upon the man and his services, and his character and labors well entitle him to specific recognition in this history of Miami county.

Mr. Wetherow claims the old Buckeye State as the place of his nativity and while he makes no claims for individual precedence, even in his



chosen field of endeavor, he can appreciate the humor of a metaphor of a popular quotation made by Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, famed as a raconteur and post-prandial speaker. Senator Depew thus summed up the situation: "Some men are born great; some achieve greatness, and some are born in the State of Ohio." Under the last element of the category Mr. Wetherow fully qualifies and he is not unappreciative of the honors thus granted. He was born on a farm in Dixon township, Preble county, Ohio, May 8, 1878, and is the only child of Harve and Sarah Ann (Harvey) Wetherow, the former a native of Grant county and the latter of Howard county, Indiana. The father gave his attention to agricultural pursuits during his independent business career and was a young man at the time of his death, which occurred on his homestead place in Preble county, Ohio, in 1887, at which time he was but thirty-five years of age. Soon afterward his widow came with her only child to Indiana and established her home in Union county. Three years later she removed to Howard county, to live with her parents, and there was solemnized her marriage to George H. Pormen. She and her husband now reside in Delaware county, Indiana, where Mr. Pormen is a prosperous farmer, and they have one son, Russell.

Edd B. Wetherow was a lad of about nine years of age at the time of his father's death, and his rudimentary education had been gained in the district schools of his native country. He accompanied his mother to Indiana and was reared to maturity under the conditions and influences of the farm, while he continued his studies in the district school until he became eligible for admission to the high school at Converse, Miami county, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1899. His education was made possible largely by the hard work and sacrifice of his mother to keep him in school. He attributes much of his success in the pedagogic field to the counsel and encouragement of Professor S. L. Heeter, at that time superintendent of the public schools of Converse, who manifested a special interest in Mr. Wetherow, encouraging him in his laudable ambitions and aiding him in every possible way to advance himself in the domain of liberal education.

In the year which marked his graduation in the high school Mr. Wetherow initiated his active pedagogic career as a teacher in a district school in Union township, Miami county. He continued his labors in that township for three years, after which he was for five years a successful teacher in the public schools of the town of Converse, Miami county for four years of that period was principal of the high school. In June, 1907, came the popular recognition of his sterling character, his ability and his earnest and effective work as an educator, having been at that time elected superintendent of the public schools of Miami county. Of this office he has since continued the efficient and valued incumbent, through reelection in June, 1911, for a second term of four years. He maintains his home in Peru and is always zealous in the discharge of his official duties by keeping in the closest touch with the work of all the schools in the county. He has brought to bear the most approved policies and methods and at the same time has labored to secure the best possible facilities in the district schools, as well as in those of the various towns and villages of the county. Genial and considerate, full of enthusiasm, fully alive to the great necessity of giving adequate educational advantages to the youth of the county, he permits no cessation of his efforts and is giving an administration that is in every sense commendable and effective. Mr. Wetherow is actively interested in the improvement of the county institutes of Indiana and is at present the secretary of the county institute section of the Indiana State Teachers' Association. As a member of a standing committee of three on

county institute research work, of which the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is a member, he represents the county superintendents of Indiana.

Loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, Mr. Wetherow takes a keen interest in all that tends to advance the civic and material prosperity of the community and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Converse and both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church.

On June 30, 1909, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wetherow to Miss Ercell Agness, who was born and reared in Miami county, and who is a daughter of Sylvester Agness, a representative citizen of Converse. Mrs. Wetherow is a woman of excellent education and most gracious personality and in the position of deputy county superintendent of schools she is proving a most effective coadjutor to her husband. They have no children.

**OTHO R. LYNCH, M. D.** A representative of the medical profession in Miami county who has risen to a position of prominence by reason of his superior ability and high professional attainments is Dr. Otho Lynch, who, during the six years in which he has prosecuted his labors in this city, has won the unqualified confidence of a wide practice and has also been prominently identified with social and political affairs. Like many successful professional men of the county, he is a product of the farm, and it was not until he had attained manhood that he decided upon a career as a physician. His subsequent success has left no doubt as to his foresight in the choice of a vocation, and among his professional brethren as well as among laymen he is recognized as one who will go high in the calling for which he has so thoroughly trained himself.

Dr. Lynch is a native of the Hoosier State, having been born at Walton, Cass county, March 30, 1880, and is the only survivor of a family of four children born to the marriage of Alfred and Ann Eliza (Rees) Lynch. His father, who was for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits in Cass county, is now living retired in Peru, while his mother passed away December 8, 1912. Dr. Lynch spent his boyhood days on the homestead farm and received his primary education in the public schools, this being supplemented by a course at Marion Normal College. For four years after his graduation, for the greater part, he was employed as a traveling salesman for the Inland Chemical Company, of Indianapolis, of which Edward H. Schmidt, present United States Marshal, was the proprietor. It was during this time, that Dr. Lynch decided to take up the study of medicine, and as opportunity permitted he prosecuted his studies assiduously, finally matriculating, in 1902, at the Indiana Medical College, where, after four years, he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the spring of 1906. During the last three months of his school work, and the three months that followed his graduation, he served as externe in the Indianapolis City Dispensary. He then came to Peru, opened offices, and engaged in the practice of his profession. He was not long in securing recognition of his abilities, and a large clientage has been built up by him since his advent here. A close and careful student, he keeps fully abreast of the times in his profession by attendance at lectures, subscription to the leading medical periodicals of his day, and membership in the State and County Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. He has taken some interest in fraternal work, being a member of the Masons, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Tribe of Ben Hur, and is examining physician of each of the local lodges of



these orders. He is also assistant surgeon for the various traction companies running into Peru. He has long been interested in affairs that effect his adopted city in any way, and has been active in Republican politics. At the present time he has the distinction of being the only representative of his party in the city council. His acquaintance in Peru and the surrounding country is large, and his popularity is attested by the wide circle of friends who have been drawn about him.

On April 27, 1907, Dr. Lynch was united in marriage with Miss Kittie Marcello, of Indianapolis.

FREDERICK S. HACKLEY AND LAVANT R. HACKLEY. In the creation of an industrial center at Peru during the early period of this city's history, probably no one individual contributed more than the late Frederick S. Hackley. The Hackley family has been identified with the citizenship of this locality for at least seventy years, and has been chiefly noted for its mechanical ability, and at the same time the name has always connoted public spirited citizenship and high moral worth.

Frederick S. Hackley was the first foundryman in Peru. That in itself is a distinction which should give his name lasting prominence in the history of this city. With his brother George, he established on East Canal Street in 1843 a factory in which they manufactured plows and other iron castings. The ore was brought from Cincinnati by canal, and they smelted this ore in their local plant before converting it to the use of manufactured articles. The plows which they first manufactured were short iron-beam breaking plows, and subsequently the "Hackley Patent Iron-Beam Plow" had a very extensive sale throughout this section of Indiana. Occasionally is met one of the old settlers who vividly recalls this agricultural implement which had such popular use among the early farmers of this county and adjoining sections of Indiana.

That old foundry along the banks of the canal had an output of other articles besides plows. The brothers made iron kettles, soles for bobsleds and a number of other iron castings doing considerable custom work in the latter branch of manufacture. In 1856, it is interesting to recall, that Mr. Hackley made and installed the iron cells in the basement of the courthouse which was constructed in that year.

Frederick S. Hackley was born in Oswego, New York in 1812. Reared on a farm and receiving only the meagre education supplied by the schools in that section of New York, when a young man he and his brother started out in life as pack peddlers. That was a not unusual occupation in that time, and many great merchants of our country began their careers in that way. It was while working at this occupation that they arrived in Peru. During their stay here, they recognized their opportunity in establishing a foundry at this point and for carrying out their plan they bought a tract of land on the banks of the canal. That ground was then covered with heavy timber, and after they had cleared this off they used the most suitable timbers for the frame work of their factory. During his long residence in Peru, and in addition to the position which he held among local business men as a manufacturer, Mr. Hackley was foremost as a citizen. He became very actively interested in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and held official position in the Grand Lodge of the State. By his industry and rugged business ability he became very prosperous and was at one time vice president of the First National Bank. His church was the Methodist and his politics was Republican, after the formation of that party, of which he was one of the original members. Though his life was spent in a time when abstinence from alcoholic liquors was not regarded as a

great thing, he was himself exceedingly temperate in his habits and was never known to use either tobacco or strong drink of any kind. His greatest pleasure was in his home circle and he was a devoted father and held friendship inviolable. During his later years he found time to travel extensively throughout this country.

By his marriage to Louisa Rector, Mr. Hackley became the father of six children, three of whom are now living. Early in 1876 Mr. Hackley represented the *Peru Times* on the state editorial excursion to Philadelphia, prior to the opening of the Centennial Exposition. On May 16, 1876, Mr. Hackley passed away, owing to the effects of an accident.

Lavant R. Hackley, the only surviving son of the late Frederick S. Hackley, was born in the city of Peru, September 8, 1856. His primary education was obtained in the public schools, and he supplemented these early advantages by two years as a student at the Riverview Military Academy at Poughkeepsie, New York, and also by a brief attendance at the Northern Indiana Normal School in Valparaiso. His practical career began as a clerk in the First National Bank. With the death of his father he became owner and active manager of the foundry, and continued to conduct this old enterprise until 1879, at which time he turned over his interests therein to his mother. Early in life he had learned the machinist's trade, and has always been an expert in this line. He followed his trade in Peru, until 1892, in which year he moved to Indianapolis, and for five years was foreman of the Jenney Electric Motor Company of that city. Returning to Peru in 1897, Mr. Hackley has for the most part engaged in his regular trade, and for the past fourteen years has been foreman of the Peru Electric Company. Although not a practical farmer himself, he is the owner of one hundred and seventy acres of fine land in Butler township this state, and operates it through a tenant.

April 28, 1880, Mr. Hackley married Miss Ada Chappell, a daughter of Holly Chappell, a former resident of Peru, and now living in Mattoon, Illinois. The seven children who have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hackley are as follows: Cora, Carl, Murle, Madge, Jessie, Lloyd and Mildred. All the children are living except Carl, whose death occurred in infancy. Mr. Hackley in politics is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

**RICHARD H. COLE.** Representative of a family which since pioneer times has furnished some of the most successful business men, professional men and officials to Miami county, Richard H. Cole has himself attained success and prominence in professional affairs and is one of the successful civil engineers of Peru.

Mr. Cole, who is a son of Alphonso Cole, and a grandson of Judge Albert Cole, the history of the family during the early generations, being found on other pages of this work, was born in Peru March 26, 1853. When a boy he attended the local public schools, and has the distinction of having been a member of the first class to be graduated from the Peru High School in 1870. To equip himself for larger usefulness he entered the University of Illinois at Champaign, where during his collegiate work he gave special attention to civil engineering. The practical beginning of his profession was in California, during the year 1875, when he was assistant chief engineer during the construction of the first irrigating canal in Kern county of that state. After his return to Peru he was elected in 1876 surveyor of Miami county, being re-elected in 1878 and serving four years in that office. In the meantime he had also been elected city engineer of Peru, and gave four years of serv-



ice in that capacity, for one year holding both offices of city engineer and county surveyor.

For about ten years Mr. Cole was actively identified with the press of Miami county. In 1879 he bought a half interest in the *Miami County Sentinel*, Mr. Louis B. Fulwiler being the other half owner. As a proprietor and active editor he continued in newspaper work with the *Sentinel* until the spring of 1889, at which time the *Sentinel* passed into other hands. Since that time Mr. Cole has practiced his regular profession, with offices at Peru, and with many demands for his services, especially in railroad construction and maintenance work.

In politics Mr. Cole was a Democrat up to 1892, but during the succeeding years was unable to support the free silver doctrine advocated by Bryan, and has since been Independent. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. On November 15, 1882, he married Miss Belle M. Talbott, daughter of William and Mary A. (Cockley) Talbott. Both her parents came from Ohio to Miami county during the early forties, and were married in Peru, their respective families being among the pioneer settlers of this community. Mr. and Mrs. Cole were the parents of one son Richard Alphonso who died in infancy. Mrs. Cole is a member of the First Baptist Church of Peru.

GEORGE M. YOARS. Prominent among the progressive and enterprising business men of Amboy is found George M. Yoars, proprietor of the Amboy Creamery, a business that from humble beginnings has grown to be one of the leading enterprises of the town. Mr. Yoars is one of the self-made men of his locality, having been content to enter upon his career in a modest capacity, and to work his own way up the ladder of success through the medium of his own energy, ability and well-directed effort. That he has done so is evident by the prosperous condition of his business, and while he has been thus engaged he has won something that is not always gained by the successful business man, the esteem and respect of his fellow citizens. Mr. Yoars was born in Jackson township, Miami county, Indiana, May 2, 1870, and is a son of Philip G. and Nancy A. (Arnold) Yoars.

George Yoars, the paternal grandfather of George M. Yoars, was born in Bremen, Germany, in April, 1818, was reared on a farm, and when twenty-two years of age decided to seek his fortune in America. Accordingly he made his way to Havre de Grace, France, where he took passage on a sailing vessel bound for the port of New York. After sixty days spent on the ocean, anchor was dropped off the coast of the American metropolis, and from that city Mr. Yoars made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he arrived July 4, 1840. On his arrival in New York he was married to Margaret Cook, who had been a passenger on the same ship in which he had made his passage. She was born in Germany, on the River Rhine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Cook, who spent their entire lives in the Fatherland, and who were the parents of the following children: Philip, Catherine, Margaret and Louisa.

George Yoars and his wife first located in Hamilton county, Ohio, and in the fall of 1855 removed to Miami county, Indiana, making their home in Jackson township on a farm of 100 acres which Mr. Yoars purchased, and of which sixty acres had been cleared. He made many excellent improvements upon that place and the rich fields yielded to him a good income in return for his labor. Although reared in the faith of the Lutheran Church, he became a member of the Friends' Church after his emigration to America. In politics he was a Republican. His death occurred in 1882 at the age of sixty-four years, and the community lost thereby one of its valued citizens. His children were Mar-

garet, Philip G., John, Anna and Julia. In 1865, when only sixteen years of age, John Yoars, of this family, enlisted in his country's service at Richmond, Wayne county, Indiana, and served with the Union army until the cessation of hostilities.

Philip G. Yoars was born in Butler county, Ohio, November 25, 1843, and was twelve years of age when he accompanied his parents in their removal to Miami county, Indiana, which was his home until his death, on the 12th of January, 1914. He acquired a limited education in the district schools and was trained to farm work, so that when he began the operation of land on his own account experience had well fitted him for his duties. As a companion and helpmeet on the journey of life he chose Miss Nancy A. Arnold, and they were married in Jackson township, Miami county, Indiana, March 10, 1868. She was born in that township, July 5, 1849, a daughter of Nathan and Sarah (Overman) Arnold. Her father was born in Wayne county, North Carolina, in 1814, his parents being Nathan and Elizabeth (Horn) Arnold. Nathan Arnold, Sr., was a member of the Friends' Society, and about 1817 removed to Indiana, locating in the midst of the forest at Richmond, Wayne county. There his last years were passed, and his death occurred when he was still engaged in agricultural pursuits. His children that reached mature years were Jeremiah, Benjamin, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Nathan and Piety. Nathan Arnold, father of Mrs. Yoars, was born in Wayne county, North Carolina, and was only three years of age when brought to Indiana by his parents. Reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier, he experienced many of the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life, and his education was such as the primitive schools of the period afforded. He was married August 21, 1839, in Randolph county, Indiana, to Sarah Overman, daughter of Cornelius and Rebecca (Ford) Overman, and then located on a farm in Deer Creek township, Grant county, Indiana, establishing a typical pioneer home in the midst of the forest. They led quiet, kindly, God-fearing lives, in harmony with their professions as members of the Friends' Church, in which both Mr. and Mrs. Arnold held the office of elder. They assisted in founding the Deer Creek church and were very active and earnest in the advancement of its cause. About 1847 they removed to a farm of 200 acres in the wild woods of Jackson township, Miami county, and there, devoting his time and energies to the cultivation and improvement of his land, Nathan Arnold spent his remaining days. He was an industrious, straightforward man, true to the principles in which he believed, and was respected by all who knew him. His political support was given to the Republican party. In 1868 he was called to his final rest, at the age of sixty-four years. His children were as follows: Joseph, who died at the age of thirteen years; Cornelius; Rebecca; Jacob; Elizabeth; Nancy; Mary and Nathan.

Mr. and Mrs. Yoars began their domestic life on a farm in Jackson township, Miami county, and later he purchased a farm of 160 acres one mile east of Amboy, where he lived until the spring of 1898. He afterward made his home in Amboy, where he was regarded as one of the substantial and progressive citizens, and he continued to maintain his interest in Jackson county farming land. He was a man of resourceful business ability, whose energies were not confined alone to one industry. In addition to his farming operations, he was engaged in grain dealing in 1873, and through the three succeeding years carried on general merchandising in Amboy. He also engaged in the manufacture of tile, and through these various avenues of trade added materially to his income. He was also engaged in the creamery business, and his operations were managed with sagacity, discretion and sound judg-



ment. He was a faithful member of the Society of Friends, as is also his widow and in political matters he was ever a stalwart Republican. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Yoars, namely: George, William, Lizzie, Amanda, Thomas, May, Annie, Maggie and Florence. Of these, William died at the age of twenty-four years, and Lizzie died at the age of 34 years.

George M. Yoars received his education in the district schools of Jackson township, and was reared to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-two years he left the parental roof to embark upon a career of his own, choosing the creamery business as the medium through which to work his way to success. At first he was employed by others, having had some experience in his father's business, later was made manager of the plant, and eventually engaged in business on his own account. Starting with a small capital in cash, but with a superabundance of energy, ambition and determination, he steadily built the little business up into one of the leading industries of its kind in the county. The excellence of the product makes it a ready seller in the adjoining markets and there is a steady and ever-increasing demand for the Yoars goods. Due precautions have been taken for absolute cleanliness in the production of these dairy goods, and the laws of hygiene have been strictly adhered to. Like his father, Mr. Yoars has proven himself an able business man, capable in the handling of large issues, and possessed of the courage born of absolute self-confidence. Among his associates he bears an enviable reputation for honorable business dealings, and during his residence in Amboy he has gained and maintained a wide circle of friends. He has been honored by election to a position on the town board, where he has faithfully looked after the best interests of his fellow-citizens. With his family, Mr. Yoars attends the Modern Friends' Church, and supports its movements liberally.

On March 7, 1896, Mr. Yoars was married to Miss Fannie J. Minor, daughter of J. W. and Amelia (Haskett) Miner, and to this union there have been born six children, namely: Fred P., who is single and his father's assistant in the creamery business; Gail W.; Carol, who died at the age of two years and four months; and Jessie Nina, Damon and Irene.

**JOHN BOOTH.** The founder and executive head of the Booth Furniture Company, which was established in 1906, he whose name initiates this review is known and honored as one of the substantial and representative business men and loyal and progressive citizens of the thriving little city of Peru, judicial center of Miami county. The Booth Furniture Company represents one of the important industrial enterprises of the county and has proved a valuable acquisition to the manufacturing and commercial interests of Peru. The company has a large and modern plant, fully equipped for the manufacturing of the lines of furniture turned out, and Mr. Booth is a thoroughly practical man in this field of enterprise, even as he is a capable administrative and executive officer. He has achieved definite success through his own ability and efforts and as a sterling citizen and leading business man of Miami county he is entitled to specific recognition in this publication.

John Booth was born in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, on the 14th of March, 1864, and is a son of John and Caroline (Shrubshal) Booth, the former of whom was born in the great industrial city of Manchester, England, and the latter at Dover, England. In his native city John Booth, Sr., learned the trade of machinist, and as a young man he emigrated to the United States, where virtually his entire active career was one of close identification with the work of his trade,

in connection with which he held various responsible positions. Though the greater part of his life in America was passed in St. Louis, Missouri, he was also employed for varying intervals at New Orleans, Louisiana; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Highland, Illinois; and Terre Haute and Indianapolis, Indiana, in which latter city he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives, secure in the high regard of all who knew them.

John Booth, Jr., to whom this sketch is dedicated, gained his early education in the public schools and manifested his ambition by attending also night schools. When a mere boy he began working under the direction of his father in a machine shop at Highland, Illinois, and there he received the munificent compensation of twenty-five cents a day for his dignified service in driving a horse used in operating the pump that supplied water for the railroad shops in which his father was employed. When about fifteen years of age Mr. Booth began working in the furniture factory of the H. Lauter Company, in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, and in this connection he gained his broad and accurate knowledge of all details of furniture manufacturing, as he continued in the service of this company during the greater part of the time until 1900. He began at a salary of two and one-half dollars a week, won promotion through energy, fidelity and effective service, and during the last five years of his identification with the concern he held the responsible office of superintendent of the factory. In the meanwhile, however, he had worked for a time in a saw mill in the great lumber woods of Michigan, as well as in the establishment of the Barry Saw Company, of Indianapolis.

In 1900 Mr. Booth engaged in the manufacturing of furniture in an independent way, and he maintained his headquarters in the capital city of Indiana until 1906, in the meanwhile having developed a substantial manufacturing business, in connection with which he gave employment to about fifty hands. In 1906 he removed his manufactory to Peru, where he erected fine brick buildings, with an aggregate floor space of about two hundred thousand square feet, to which he has since added to the extent of about one hundred and eight thousand square feet, to meet the demands placed upon the establishment by its constantly expanding business. The mechanical and other facilities of this factory are of the best order, including an engine of one hundred and seventy-five horse power, and employment is given to an operating force of one hundred hands, the major number of whom are skilled artisans who command good wages,—a fact that has definite bearing upon the value of this important industrial enterprise to the city in which it is located.

Though never imbued with aught of ambition for public office, Mr. Booth has shown himself most liberal and loyal in his civic attitude and in politics classifies himself as an independent Republican. He is ever ready to lend his support to those agencies conserving the social and material well-being of the community and is a strong advocate of temperance, not only in the matter of indulgence in intoxicants but also in all other matters that touch the mutual relations of mankind. Both he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the family has become one of distinctive popularity in the social activities of Peru.

In the year 1887 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Booth to Miss Minnie E. Wagoner, of Indianapolis, this state, and they have three children, concerning whom the following brief data are entered: Earl C. is office manager for the Booth Furniture Company; Neil S. is a member of the De Pauw University, at Greencastle; and Lois H. W. is attending the public schools of Peru.



**FRANK SPAULDING.** A leading business citizen of Peru, Frank Spaulding has been long connected with the industrial interests of this thriving city, and the general confidence which he enjoys among all classes has resulted in his being called to fill positions of high trust and responsibility, in which he has displayed marked ability, executive capacity and conscientious and public-spirited devotion to duty. Mr. Spaulding is a native son of Peru, born March 14, 1869, one of the seven surviving children of the twelve born to William H. H. and Sara Jane (Parks) Spaulding, natives of Ohio.

Mr. Spaulding was reared in Peru and his entire life has been spent here, and he has naturally taken a keen interest in all that affects its welfare. In youth he attended the public schools, but when he was only twelve years of age started upon his own career, as an agent for the Home Sewing Machine Company. Later, when about sixteen years of age, he entered his father's brass and iron foundry, and in due time acquired a financial interest in the business. From early manhood he has been interested in politics, and has never ceased to study questions of moment, and his services have been frequently utilized by the Republican party in its councils and on committee work. In 1904 he became the candidate of his party for the office of county treasurer, and although Miami is a Democratic county, he received the election by a majority of two hundred and fifty-eight ballots. He assumed office January 1, 1906, and rendered excellent service, and in the fall of 1906 again became the Republican nominee in this Democratic stronghold and was elected by a majority of three hundred votes. His last term expired December 31, 1909, since which time he has devoted his entire attention to his foundry business, having purchased his father's interest in the enterprise. He is an excellent business man, with modern ideas and the capacity to carry his ventures through to a successful conclusion, and his establishment is one that adds to Peru's prestige as a center of business activity.

On September 5, 1900, Mr. Spaulding was united in marriage with Miss Viola Ruth Lavingwood, of Peru, and they are leading members of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church, and general favorites in social circles. Mr. Spaulding is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. For fifteen years he was a member of the Third Regiment Band, Indiana National Guards. He is a man of no pretensions, but is quiet, conservative and thoroughly in earnest in everything he undertakes. During his long residence in Peru he has formed a wide acquaintance, and in it he has never knowingly made an enemy, or lost a friend save through death. His service in the county treasurer's office was one that reflected credit upon himself and the county, and this section has had no official who has been more popular, or in whom greater public confidence has been placed.

**JAMES JASON BLAIR.** Resident in Miami county for over sixty-five years, the Blair family has been characterized by the positive virtues and rugged strength of its Scotch forefathers, and has contributed to the community values that increase the wholesomeness and attractiveness of the present beyond the limited resources of the past.

The late James Blair, who for many years was identified with this county was a native of New Athens, Ohio, where he was born January 9, 1831. When a young man he drove across the country by wagon with his parents to Miami county in 1847, and they all first located in Peru. John Blair, his father, was a native of Scotland, and on first coming to Peru, engaged in merchandising. Subsequently he

moved to the west side of Peru township, locating on a farm, and that continued to be his home for many years. The family subsequently moved to a farm on Section nineteen, where John Blair died. James Blair married Lydia Marquis, a daughter of Isaac Marquis. After the marriage he continued farming on section nineteen until his death in July, 1886. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are now living, three sons being located in Texas, a daughter in Oklahoma, and three of the family in Miami county. James Blair was a Democrat and a Presbyterian and a man whose influence in his community was always for the better things.

James Jason Blair, who was the seventh among his parents' children was born on the farm first occupied by his father in Peru township, December 1, 1872. During his youth he received a common school education, and from the beginning of his practical career has followed farming. On October 4, 1900, he married Miss Nellie Miller, daughter of Ed. H. Miller, whose parents were among the first of the settlers to locate within the present limits of Miami county. To Mr. Blair and wife, two children have been born, namely: James L. and Vernice M. Blair. Mr. Blair is the owner of two hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, and devotes his attention to general farming, having one of the largest and best improved, and most profitable farming estates in Peru township. Politically he is an Independent Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

**JOSEPH HALL.** Representatives of five generations of the Hall family have resided in Miami county, and the early settlement of the family goes back to the pioneer era of the thirties and forties. As deeper study is paid to the history of individual families and their relations with the welfare of a community, the world is coming to appreciate more and more the value of such virtues in a family as industry, steady-going habits, honor and honesty, social relations and the fundamental strength of character which distinguishes the good from the bad in every community. It is as the possessor of these excellences that the Hall family should be commemorated during its residence in this county and of course individual members are worthy of note for other things besides.

Joseph Hall, who has been selected as the chief representative of the family now living, is a farmer in Peru township, his parents having come to this vicinity from Henry county, Indiana, during pioneer times. He is a son of Alfred and Rachel Ann (Largent) Hall, who were married in Champaign county, Ohio. Grandfather Joseph Hall and wife came to Miami county at the same time as did Alfred Hall and wife. All established homes in Richland township, near where the village of Paw Paw is located. After entering land from the government, they began clearing out the woods and brush, and as a result of their many days and weeks of labor they produced homesteads which have now been productive of the crops of the soil for many years. In Richland township Joseph Hall and his wife spent the remainder of their days and at their death were buried at Paw Paw.

Alfred Hall, the father, was in some respects an unusual man. In those early times of Miami county and everywhere else throughout this nation, most men drank liquor and used tobacco. He had neither of these habits. He was a man possessed of fair education, and had a fund of good practical sense, that, coupled with thrift and industry, enabled him to accumulate a comfortable portion of the world's material welfare. He was a Republican in politics, and being well informed upon national issues, his opinions were always listened too with respect. Socially he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He



and his wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living except two.

Of these children Joseph Hall, who was named for his grandfather, was born in Richland township, Miami county, November 13, 1848. When old enough he began attending the neighboring district schools during the winter months, and assisted in the work of the home farm. On the twenty-fifth of January, 1871, he married Nancy Phifer, daughter of George Phifer, who was also an early settler in this county, and concerning whom brief mention is made in the following paragraph. At the time of his marriage Mr. Hall had acquired forty acres of land in Jefferson township. He and his wife moved into a log cabin on this land, and spent there the first three or four years of their married life. Later he sold that property, and he and his father then bought one hundred and sixty-two acres, situated just across the road. subsequently this property was sold and then for a time he lived on the home place and elsewhere. During the past seven years Mr. Hall has resided on his present rural estate in Peru township. He is the owner of a total of one hundred and twelve acres situated in this township, and gives his time to general farming.

Mr. Hall is a Republican in politics, and he and his wife belong to the Methodist church, and the United Brethren church respectively. To their marriage have been born two children, namely: Clarence, who is married and is farming in Peru township; and Stella, wife of John Cumberland, a farmer of Richland township. The Hall family have been of the quiet, unobtrusive kind of citizens, noted for confining their attention to their own business exclusively, to paying their just debts, to living clean and wholesome lives. Incidentally they have aided in so far as possible in the support of all laudable public enterprises.

George Phifer, the father of Mrs. Joseph Hall, was born in the state of Virginia, and came west with his people to Wayne county, Indiana, where he married Lucinda World. They then moved to Miami county, when the Indians were still lingering in their old hunting grounds, and settled near the southeast corner of section two in Peru township, where their daughter Mrs. Nancy Hall now lives. In that locality Mr. Phifer built the log cabin and here he and his wife spent the remainder of their days engaged in farming. George Phifer died in 1892 and his wife in 1883. They were the parents of seven children, of whom two are now living, namely: Nancy, wife of Joseph Hall; and Martin, a resident of Peru.

WILLIAM M. EIKENBERRY. As a farmer and stock raiser, Mr. Eikenberry is one of the most prominent in Miami county, and is a successful representative of a family which has been identified with similar interests in this county since the pioneer days. The Eikenberrys have always been noted as skillful managers of the resources of the soil, have maintained high standards of citizenship, and have performed important social services in many capacities.

William M. Eikenberry is a man of self-attainments having been dependent upon his own resources since he was a boy, and by thrifty industry has acquired one of the fine farms of Jefferson township.

William M. Eikenberry was born in Union township of Miami county, April 17, 1865. He is one of twelve children, eight of whom are still living, born to the marriage of John Eikenberry and Nancy Miller. Nancy (Miller) Eikenberry was a sister of Levi Miller one of the pioneers of Miami county, whose name is associated in the history as the founder of the orphan asylum at Mexico in Jefferson

township. John Eikenberry was a native of Preble county, Ohio, born about the year 1829. He was married in that county, and came to Miami county about the same time with the Miller family. That was in the pioneer epoch of this section, and when he settled on a tract of land in Union township he found it covered with heavy walnut, oak, poplar, and other of the native trees. After clearing a space among these giants of the forest he built his log cabin and that was the first home of the Eikenberry family in Miami county. He then set himself to the arduous labor of clearing the soil from its covering of forest and brush, and followed the custom usually practiced in the pioneer times of burning the hardwood in order that he might secure land for cultivation. The timber thus sacrificed would today pay for the land many times over. Mrs. Eikenberry lived in this county until her death in 1883. John Eikenberry later married Mary Klingensfeld, and they became the parents of five children, three of whom are yet living. John Eikenberry gave his property in Union township to his children, and finally moved out to Piatt county, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his days until his death in April, 1912.

William M. Eikenberry has lived in Miami county all his life with the exception of eleven years, having been a resident of Cass county for ten years, and for one year was in Rochester, Indiana. He was reared to hard work on the farm, and attained such education as was afforded by the district school of his day. Soon after the death of his mother he went to live with his brother Alfred L., on the home farm. From the age of fourteen he had to do for himself, and this dependence upon his own resources no doubt had a important bearing upon his subsequent success.

He has for a number of years been in independent circumstances, and is one of the substantial men of Miami county. About 1894 he bought seventy acres of land on section twenty-three in Jefferson township. That was his first ownership of local farm property, but since then he has increased his possession several fold. The first purchase was later sold and he now owns one hundred and sixty acres on section thirty-six of Jefferson township. In connection with general farming Mr. Eikenberry raises stock, and has made of his farm not only a good business proposition, but also an attractive homestead.

He is a Democrat in politics and he and his wife are members of the German Baptist church, of which he is now a deacon. In July, 1886, Mr. Eikenberry married Miss Elizabeth Fisher, a daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Murley) Fisher. Her people were among the pioneers of Miami county. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eikenberry, and the first died unnamed in infancy. The other two are Joseph Kernie and Sarah Lois. The son Joseph Kernie is a minister of the German Baptist church, having preached his first sermon when sixteen years of age. He married Sarah Olive Hooper in 1912. He shares in the work of the home place in Jefferson township.

ALVIN KENDALL. It has been through no adventitious circumstances that Alvin Kendall has been successful in life, rather through the exercise of well directed energy, tireless industry and strict and never-failing integrity. Coming to the city of Amboy some ten years ago to take over the management of his present hardware business, he has made his influence felt in commercial circles, in public affairs and in social circles of the city, and at all times has maintained a high reputation for honorable dealing and commendable public spirit. Mr. Kendall is a native son of Miami county, where the family has been known for upwards of a half a century, and was born on his father's farm in Jackson town-



ship, July 10, 1872, a son of John and Diana (Schrock) Kendall, and a grandson of Jonathan Kendall and Benjamin Schrock.

John Kendall was born and reared in Holmes county, Ohio, and came to Miami county, Indiana, in 1863, first engaging in farming and subsequently embarking in the threshing business, in which he continued for forty years. In 1906 he removed to Winfield, Kansas, where he still resides, and although advanced in years continues to be actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. His wife passed away in 1879, while a resident of Miami county.

Alvin Kendall was reared on the home farm, and while securing his education in the district schools was thoroughly trained in the subjects that make a good agriculturist. He was also for some years engaged in assisting his father in the threshing business, but on attaining his majority embarked upon a career of his own, first engaging in farming. Two years later he gave up the tilling of the soil to engage in the electric light business, which he continued to follow for five years, and succeeding this embarked in the hardware business, being for four years connected with this line of trade at Cass City, Indiana. At the end of that period he came to Amboy, where he took over the management of his present establishment. Under Mr. Kendall's able direction this has become one of the leading enterprises of the city, and attracts a large and ever-increasing trade from the surrounding country. He carries a complete stock of shelf and heavy hardware, is careful in the selection of his goods, and is thoroughly conversant with the needs of his trade. Thus he has built up a reputation for reliability and honorable dealing, and his conscientious attention to every detail of the business has served to increase the scope and volume of his patronage. Mr. Kendall is a popular member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and has numerous friends in business and social circles of Amboy. He is not a politician, but has ever taken a good citizen's interest in matters affecting the welfare of his community, and can be depended upon to support good men and measures. With his family, he attends the Christian church, has liberally donated to its various movements, and for some years has acted in the capacity of deacon.

In 1894, Mr. Kendall was united in marriage with Miss Myra J. Miller, daughter of Frank F. and Elizabeth (Eltzroth) Miller, and to this union there have been born two daughters and one son: Agnes, Helen and John. Mr. Kendall's children have received the advantages of good educations, and are all living with their parents.

**JAMES LARIMER.** The oldest living native citizen of Deer Creek township is James Larimer. Mr. Larimer was born in this township on the 5th of May, 1849. For sixty-four years this locality has been his home. When he was a boy the Indians were still in this section of Indiana, and he has played with the Indian youth, and among his early recollection are the tramps and other childhood sports in which he engaged with Indian companions in the woods and on the prairies of beautiful Deer Creek township. Within his recollection also, the county had much wild game, and deer, bear and wolves were very numerous during the decade of the sixties. He recalls how his father once came home with his clothes all torn, after having killed a bear. Mr. Larimer therefore represents the chief historical epoch in the development of Miami county, and has seen every notable improvement and the introduction of practically every facility of modern civilization.

Both his grandfather and his father were named Joseph Larimer, and the maiden name of his mother was Mary Miller, a daughter of Jacob Miller. His father came to this county in 1842 from Ohio which

was his native state. He was a poor man when he came here, and his first land purchased was seven acres. He tilled that and then leased a small place of forty acres, and by hard work and economy saved enough on that place to buy forty acres of his own. On this he erected a log cabin and that was the home of himself and family for some years. From the original home place he moved to another farm which he bought and remained there until the time of his death, which occurred about 1877. The mother died in 1902. An uncle of James Larimer, Phillip Larimer now owns the old homestead of the father.

James Larimer remained at home, attending the country schools and getting such training for life as the time and conditions afforded, and in 1881 was married and began life for himself. He married Miss Clara Smith, a daughter of Bailey Smith, who was an early settler in Hendricks county, Indiana, and is still living at the age of eighty-four years. Her mother died several years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Larimer are the parents of eight children named as follows: Iva, who married Edgar Prather; Omar, who married Agnes Kessler; Bessie, who is single; Harry, who married May Fording; Nellie, who married Arthur Glaston; James, Paul and Dorothy, who are all unmarried.

Mr. Larimer from his youth up followed the vocation of farmer, and was always known as a man of practical ability in that line. In 1903 he turned his principle attention to the business of drilling wells, and has a large custom in that work. He owns a comfortable residence in the village of Miami, where some years ago he bought three acres of land, and put up his own home. He is an attendant of the Mission church, although he was reared in the faith of the Methodist. His brother Thomas was a soldier in the army, during the Civil war, and his brother Joseph was clerk of court at Peru for eight years.

**WILLIAM McDANIELS.** In the business economy of the town of Converse there is no more progressive establishment than the garage and automobile supply house of William McDaniels. Mr. McDaniels is an enterprising young man who came to Miami county a little more than twenty years ago, learned his trade as blacksmith here, and for the past seventeen years has been an independent business man. Along with business success he has acquired the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, and is regarded as one of the ablest citizens of Converse.

William McDaniels was born in Highland county, Ohio, March 2, 1871. His father was William McDaniels and his paternal grandfather was Thomas McDaniels. The maiden name of his mother was Charlotte Alexander, whose father was George Alexander. Mr. McDaniels' father died eight years ago in Ohio, and the mother passed away thirty-eight years ago.

The date of Mr. McDaniels' arrival in Miami county was December 16, 1891, coming here from Ohio. During his early life in Ohio he attended the public schools, and was fairly well equipped for a career when he arrived in this vicinity. He obtained employment in a blacksmith shop and as a laborer for others continued at work for three years and was then ready to start for himself. He conducted a good business at Converse in general blacksmithing and repairing until the era of automobiles, and about seven years ago he equipped his shop for the needs of his new business. The building which he now occupies was originally built for a livery barn and he overhauled and remodeled it into a modern garage.

Mr. McDaniels is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World and he and his family attend the Christian church. He was married January 1, 1899, to Miss Jessie Mizler a daughter of William and Amanda (Rudy) Mizler, both of whom came



from Ohio and are still living. The five children of Mr. and Mrs. McDaniels are: William K., born November 24, 1899; Donald L., born November 13, 1901; Mildred Gaynell, born February 10, 1905; Robert Alexander, born June 20, 1910, and Harry Ashton, born November 25th, 1912.

**MILTON DOUGLASS.** Classed among the sterling representatives of the agricultural interests of Miami county is Milton Douglass, whose long residence, industrious habits and public-spirited public service entitle him to a place among the men whose activities have contributed to the welfare of his community and its people. Mr. Douglass was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 12, 1842, and is a son of Seymour and Elizabeth (Madden) Douglass.

The Douglass family, as the name indicates is of Scotch origin, although the family was founded in America by a native of the North of Ireland. William Douglass, the great-grandfather of Milton Douglass, who came to this country as a young man, many years previous to the Revolutionary War. Settling in York county, Pennsylvania, he was there married to Elizabeth Mathews, in 1735, and they became the parents of the following children: David, born October 7, 1754, who became a pioneer of Peru, Indiana, and there passed away in 1839; Mary, born August 5, 1756, who died in 1761; Richard, born June 10, 1758; Martha, born February 11, 1760, who died in 1837; Elizabeth, born January 15, 1762, who died in 1840; William, born December 4, 1764, who died in 1850; John, born June 1, 1767, died in 1857; James, born October 8, 1769, who died August 21, 1835; Mary, born April 29, 1772; and Rebecca, born May 2, 1774. After his marriage, William Douglass passed the remainder of his life on his farm, which for many years was in the hands of his descendants, and in all probability members of the family still own it. A man of excellent traits of character, just in his dealings with all, and industrious and energetic in his own labors, he became well known in his community, but was a home lover and never cared for public life, although he supported the principles and candidates of the Democratic party. He was a fine performer on the violin, but this accomplishment he used only for the pleasure of himself and his friends. Mrs. Douglass was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church.

James Douglass, son of the progenitor, and grandfather of Milton Douglass, was born on his father's farm in York county, Pennsylvania, October 8, 1769, and in that vicinity received a limited public school education, and followed in his father's foot-steps, becoming a farmer. On October 27, 1795, at Ellicott Mills, now Ellicott City, twenty miles west of the city of Baltimore, Maryland, he was married to Miss Polly Taylor, who was born November 28, 1773, at that place, the Taylors being of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and an old Colonial family of Maryland. James Douglass went on a trading expedition to Baltimore with a load of produce, and at her father's tavern on the road first met the lady who later became his wife. Their children were as follows: Levi, born April 4, 1797, who died in October, 1812; Elizabeth, born July 29, 1801, and died in 1861; Absalom, born October 22, 1804, who died in 1861; Jephtha, born September 11, 1806; Thompson, born April 2, 1808; Steele, born March 10, 1810; Milo, born August 12, 1812; Seymour A., born July 1, 1815, died September 3, 1861; and Mary, born May 13, 1818. Some time after his marriage, James Douglass moved to Virginia, near the York county line, but after two years spent on farm land went to the eastern part of Ohio and engaged in the hotel business for a few years. Succeeding this he went down the Ohio river

to Cincinnati, and settled in Clinton county, Ohio, as a pioneer, there clearing up a large farm of 220 acres in the woods. He paid for his land twice, it being military land, having purchased it the first time from the wrong party. Although a member of no religious denomination, he supported the movements of the Presbyterian church, of which his wife was an active member, and was known as a man of quiet habits, straightforward and upright in his dealings with his fellow men, and honored and respected by all who knew him. He was a Whig, but like his father never cared for public office. Like him, also, he was a talented musician. Mr. Douglass was successful in his operations, and left his family a good estate.

Seymour A. Douglass, son of James Douglass, was born July 1, 1815, while his parents were sojourning in Warren county, on their journey to Clinton, Ohio. His education was acquired in the public schools, and he was reared to agricultural pursuits, in which he engaged in young manhood. He was married January 14, 1841, in Clinton county, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Madden, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, daughter of Solomon and Ruth (Robbins) Madden.

Solomon Madden was born September 24, 1793, in North Carolina, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and died October 16, 1849. He was the son of George and Elizabeth (Carter) Madden, and grandson of Barnabas Madden, who emigrated to America as a young man about the year 1740. Barnabas Madden married a German woman in Pennsylvania, and subsequently removed to the Old North State. Although a devout follower of the faith of the Society of Friends, he served in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War, as a blacksmith, and assisted in forging the big chain that was used to obstruct the British vessels in their ascent of the James river. His children were: Elizabeth R., Cyrus, Alice, Solomon, Mary, Moses, William and Rachel. Solomon, Moses and William served in the Civil War as privates. Solomon Madden, the maternal grandfather of Milton Douglass, was likewise a member of the Society of Friends and a blacksmith, and lived on Deep river, in North Carolina. In 1814 he moved to Clinton county with his parents, became a pioneer farmer, and also worked at his trade, and was there married. He was a stalwart abolitionist and a conductor on the famous "Underground Railroad," and partly reared a colored boy who was bound to him and who assisted in the care of the runaway slaves.

After his marriage, Seymour Douglass lived on his father's farm in Clinton county, and there passed the remaining years of a useful life. He was not a member of any church, although a supporter of movements making for morality and good citizenship, and when he died, at the early age of forty-six years, he was esteemed and respected by all who knew him. He was a Republican and a staunch Abolitionist and took an active part in assisting the Union cause. For some years he served his fellow-citizens in positions of public trust and responsibility and for a time was justice of the peace and township clerk. All of his children were born on the Douglass homestead in Clinton county and were as follows: Milton; Mary R., born November 26, 1843; James, a talented violinist, born August 19, 1847; Solomon, born February 26, 1851, died August 19, 1871; Martha E., born July 6, 1853; Alice R., born November 14, 1856; Rose, born in 1859; and Seymour, born June 10, 1861, who died December 7, 1897.

Milton Douglass was given the advantages of a public school education in his native state, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits during the Civil War. Enlisting in Company B, One Hundred



Forty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, he served for four months with that organization, and then received his honorable discharge and returned to the duties of peace. In 1868, after his marriage, Mr. Douglass came to his present property, then a tract of sixty acres, upon which but little clearing had been done. Here he erected a small plank house, in which he and his wife settled down to house-keeping, and as the years passed he added to his land, his improvements and his buildings, making one of the valuable farms of his township. In 1880 he purchased twenty acres in Jackson township, adjoining his original purchase, and later added sixty acres more, and cleared and ditched the entire property, which he beautified with substantial structures of modern architecture. Of late years he has given a good deal of his property to his children, although he is still active in the management of his affairs, and is known as one of the substantial farmers of his section. Mr. Douglass has been an ardent worker in the cause of good roads, and to his influence and efforts and to his personal canvasses in Harrison and Jackson townships may be given the credit for much of the progress that has been made along this line. A faithful member of the Friends' Church, he has acted in the capacity of overseer and clerk. He receives a government pension for his services in the army, and is a valued and popular member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

On January 1, 1868, Mr. Douglass was married to Miss Mary Ballard, who was born December 2, 1845, in Iowa, daughter of David and Priscilla (Lewis) Ballard. David Ballard was born in Greene county Ohio, February 2, 1819, a son of William and Phoebe (Faulkner) Ballard, the Ballards being North Carolinians of Scotch-Irish ancestry. David Ballard was a farmer, as had been his father before him, and after moving about a good deal finally settled on a property in Howard county, Indiana. His children were as follows: Asa, who served four years and eight months in the Civil War, being honorably discharged with the rank of captain; Louisa, Mary, Aseneth and William. He was a member of the Friends' church, in which he served as trustee, was a staunch prohibitionist, a charter member of that party, and a man of straightforward character. Mrs. Douglass died in March, 1888, in the faith of the Society of Friends, having been the mother of five children, namely: Clinton, who married Clara Powell; Lizzie, who married O. D. Milton; Milo, who married Clara Howard; Elbert, who married Nora Allen, and Eva, who died at the age of twenty years.

On August 20, 1889, in Howard county, Indiana, Mr. Douglass was married to Mary E. Symons, who was born July 1, 1858, in Wabash county, Indiana, a daughter of Daniel and Louisa (Macy) Symons. The Macys were an old Colonial family of North Carolina and for generations members of the Friends' Church, with which Mrs. Douglass is connected. Mr. Douglass is a Prohibitionist, and has not been backward in advocating temperance movements or expressing his views on the subject. His own life has been a long and a useful one, and now, in the evening of life, he may look back over a career on which there is no stain or blemish, surrounded by family and friends, and content in the knowledge of work ably accomplished, duty well done.

NOAH W. KING, whose connection with the business interests of Amboy dates back to 1895, is worthily entitled to a place among the representative men of Miami county, in that during his residence here he has been identified with a number of the enterprises that have given the city commercial and industrial supremacy. His activities have left their impress upon the business, political and social life of the community,

and he has at all times been considerate of the duties of citizenship. Mr. King is a native of Ohio, born in Tuscarawas county, December 19, 1858, and is a son of Absalom and Susanna (Hostettler) King, and a grandson of Christian King and Isaac Hostettler.

Absalom King was born in Holmes county, Ohio, from whence he removed in young manhood to Tuscarawas county, in that state, and April 3, 1875, came to Miami county, Indiana. In early manhood he was engaged in farming, and subsequently took up sawmill work, but on locating in Miami county secured a farm of eighty acres in Clay township, on which he carried on operations for about twenty years. Succeeding this he went to the Howard county line, secured land, and spent the remainder of his life in agricultural pursuits.

Noah W. King received a good common school education, and until his marriage resided with his parents. At the age of twenty-one years he began teaching school, continuing as an educator until reaching his thirtieth year, and also dealt in horses and operated a threshing outfit. About the year 1900 he was elected trustee of Clay township, and at that time began farming on his father-in-law's homestead, but subsequently purchased a tract of his own, on which he resided for three years. At the end of that period, on account of the ill health of his wife, he sold his land and removed to Peru, where he was engaged in real estate operations. In the spring of 1895 Mr. King came to Amboy and became one of the founders of the Amboy Mercantile Company, of which he was manager for some time, and in which he still retains an interest, although at this writing he is engaged as manager, secretary and treasurer of Amboy Home Telephone Company, of Amboy, Indiana, and in the real estate and loan business, having a well appointed suite of offices in the Miami County Bank building. He is at this time secretary of this bank. He is known as a capable man of affairs, who is relied upon by his associates for leadership in matters of an important character, but who has never allowed his own enterprises to interfere with the duties of citizenship. He is essentially a business man and has not cared for public preferment, but takes an interest in the success of good men and progressive movements. With his family, he attends the Menonite church.

On March 26, 1886, Mr. King was married to Miss Elizabeth Miller, of Miami county, daughter of Absalom and Barbara (Shrock) Miller. Seven children have been born to this union, namely: Beulah, who became the wife of Earl Mast; Willard and Susie, who are single and engaged in teaching school in Miami county; Katie, Ima and Ralph, who are completing their education in the schools of Amboy, and Maude F., who died in infancy. The members of this family are widely known in social circles of Amboy, where all have numerous friends.

**JOHN F. UNGER.** From a subordinate position in a clerical capacity, John F. Unger advanced step by step until he found himself secretary and treasurer of the Indiana Manufacturing Company, in Peru, Indiana, and from that he has recently come to be known as a member of the firm of Unger-Kramer Company, manufacturers of wire bound packing boxes. This firm is incorporated at \$50,000, and giving employment to an aggregate of fifty hands, is one of the telling enterprises of Peru.

John F. Unger, who is the executive head of the concern, was born in Arcadia, Hamilton county, Indiana, on June 8, 1869, and he is one of the eight children born to Jacob and Louise (Essig) Unger. All the children but one are yet living and filling useful places in their various walks of life. The father was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and the mother of Pennsylvania, and of Swiss parentage. Jacob Unger has



followed the business of farming all his life, but is now retired and with his wife is living at Arcadia, where he is enjoying the fruits of his earlier years of toil and application to duty.

John F. Unger was reared on the farm home of his parents to the age of twenty-one, during which time he received a good, practical education, calculated to help him through life, without hindering him by the possession of undue learning. He was graduated from the Arcadia high school, and for two winters thereafter he was engaged in teaching school. He followed that work with a course of business training and in 1890 came to Peru, Indiana, where he secured employment with the Indiana Manufacturing Company as stenographer and assistant book-keeper. He remained with this concern for twenty-two years, being occupied in all its clerical departments, and advancing from one post of importance to another until in 1896 he became secretary of the concern. He continued in that capacity for sixteen years, and in February, 1912, he severed his long standing connection with this well known concern and in association with George A. and John Kramer, engaged in an independent business enterprise. They purchased the old Peru Woolen Mills and dismantling it of its equipment, which they sold at a reasonable figure, they equipped the place with suitable machinery for the manufacture of wire bound packing boxes. They established the business under the corporate name of the Unger-Kramer Company, and capitalized it at \$50,000, and though still a young concern, it is making rapid headway in the business, and bids fair to take a prominent place among the prominent manufacturing houses of this section of the state. It is an undeniable asset to the town, furnishing employment as it does to fifty persons continually, and is rightly regarded as one of the valuable industrial enterprises of the city.

Mr. Unger is a Democrat, and has served as a member of the city school board, having been a member of that body when the new high school building was erected, and it is worthy of mention here that Mr. Unger aided in the planning and designing of that structure, which is in every way a most creditable one.

On April 12, 1893, Mr. Unger was married to Estella M. Tucker, of Arcadia, Indiana, and they have one son—Noel G. Unger. The religious faith of Mr. Unger is that of the German Lutheran church, in which he was reared by his parents, and his wife is a stanch Presbyterian.

PROFESSOR HAL L. HALL is a native of Indiana, his birth occurring in Switzerland county October 29, 1865. He is the son of Edwin A. and Martha (Henry) Hall, the father being a native of Switzerland county, Indiana, and a carpenter and builder by trade, and the mother, a native of the same county, where both passed their lives and finally died.

Hal L. Hall was reared in his native county and there continued to reside until he had reached his twenty-first birthday. He was educated in the public schools in the village of Center Square, and for four years, beginning when he was seventeen years old, he taught country schools. In 1887 he attended the spring term of school at the De Pauw University Normal School, and the succeeding year he attended the same institution. In the autumn of 1888 he went to what is now North Dakota and was there engaged in teaching in Ransom and Cass counties for something like four years. In 1892 he returned to his old Indiana home because of the serious illness of his mother, and during the ensuing winter taught in the high school at Moorfield. In 1893 and 1894 he was a student at the Indiana State University, at Bloomington, and in 1894-5 he was principal of the high school at Rockport, Indiana. In the fall of 1895 Mr. Hall came to Peru as a teacher of mathematics in the high

school. In 1897 he again entered the State University, where he continued through 1897, there specializing in the subject of mathematics, and in 1899 he was graduated from the State University with the A. B. degree. His mother died in that year, and he remained at home during the remainder of the year, and in the next year he accepted a position as teacher of mathematics in the high school of Anderson, Indiana. The fall of 1900 found him once more in Peru as principal of the high school, and that position he continued to fill for three years. The next five and a half years Mr. Hall was occupied in the insurance and real estate business in Peru, at the end of which time he withdrew from business activities and once more resumed his educational work, going to Shawnee, Oklahoma, where he was principal of the high school for three years. In 1912 Mr. Hall was elected superintendent of the schools of Peru, which position he is now filling. Mr. Hall is recognized throughout the state as an educator of more than usual merit, and one who keeps apace with the newest and best methods in the educational system. He is in every way fitted for his work, and finds favor wherever he has been identified with the educational interests of a community.

MILTON KRAUS, president of the Great Western Automobile Company is one of the most active and influential business men of Peru. He began his career in this city more than twenty-five years ago as a lawyer and was engaged in practice and one of the successful members of the local bar for many years until he finally turned all of his attention to manufacturing and other more material lines of commerce.

Milton Kraus is a native of Kokomo, Indiana, where he was born June 26, 1866. His parents came to Peru in 1880 when he was fourteen years of age, and this has ever since been his home. His early education was obtained in both the public schools of Kokomo and Peru, graduating in 1884 from the Peru high school.

He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated in the law in 1886. Admitted to the bar of Miami county in the same year, he took up and engaged in the active practice of his profession for a number of years. For the past fifteen years, however, he has not engaged in active practice. During this time he has given his enterprise to mercantile and manufacturing enterprises in Peru. He is president of the Great Western Automobile Company, and is doing much to promote the industrialism of this city. In politics Mr. Kraus is a Republican.

HON. JABEZ THOMAS COX. Judge Cox has long held secure prestige as one of the representative jurists and lawyers of Indiana. His family was founded in this commonwealth more than sixty years ago, and its earlier history was identified with American annals from the early colonial era. His paternal great-grandfather was a soldier in the Continental line in the War of the Revolution, serving with South Carolina troops, and after the war became a pioneer settler at Nashville, Tennessee. Two great uncles of Judge Cox, Captain Walker and Colonel Henderson, were gallant officers of the War of 1812 and both were killed in the Battle of New Orleans. Another great-uncle, James Watts, who was an ensign in a Nashville Company of Mounted Riflemen, in the Creek Indian war was killed in one of the engagements with those Indians.

Though Judge Cox is a native of Ohio, he was only about four years old when the family came to Indiana, and this state has been his home the greater portion of his life. He was born in Clinton county, Ohio, January 27, 1846, a son of Aaron and Mary (Skaggs) Cox, the former a native of Ohio. The grandfather was a native of North Carolina.



Aaron Cox was an Ohio farmer until 1850, when he brought his family to Indiana, and established his home in Hamilton county, where he developed a productive farm and became an honored and influential citizen. Both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives in the city of Indianapolis.

Under the conditions and influences of a pioneer farm in Hamilton county, Jabez T. Cox grew up strong in body and not without his stirrings of inspiration and ambition for a larger sphere of usefulness during his mature years. The early district schools of that locality gave him a knowledge of books, and he studied much privately, and also took a course in Westfield Academy in that county. He was known as a very bright scholar in that community, and when sixteen years of age qualified himself for the dignified position of teacher in a district school, in which a number of his pupils were older than himself. He early had definitely decided upon the law as the regular career for his efforts, and took up the studies of Blackstone under Judge James O'Brien, a leading member of the Hamilton county bar, and at that time living in Noblesville. Early in 1864, when eighteen years old, Judge Cox tendered his services to the Union enlisting as a private in Company B of the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The greater part of his service was on detached duty, since his command did not get into action in any of the great battles of the closing period of the war.

Soon after receiving his honorable discharge, Judge Cox resumed his studies at Tipton, in the office of his uncle Nathan R. Overman, who later served on the bench of the circuit court. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar, and forthwith engaged in the practice of his profession at Tipton. He applied himself closely to his work, and soon gained recognition as one of the rising young attorneys of the Tipton county bar. In 1869 he temporarily retired from the law to take up journalistic enterprise. He bought the plant and business of the *Frankfort Crescent*, a weekly paper issued at Frankfort in Clinton county. Judge Cox was editor and publisher of the *Crescent* until February, 1872, when he sold the property and returned to Tipton. There he engaged in practice as a member of the firm of Overman, Cox & Parker, the senior member of which was his uncle and former preceptor, Judge Overman. During his successful practice at Tipton which continued until 1875, Mr. Cox made a reputation as a resourceful trial lawyer and also as a counselor. In that year he moved to Kansas, establishing his home at Hutchinson, where he soon gained a leading rank in the local bar. In 1878 he was Democratic nominee for the office of attorney general of Kansas, and though defeated he made such a spirited and effective canvass throughout the state that in the ensuing election he had the satisfaction of running thirty thousand votes ahead of the general average of his party ticket.

In the spring of 1879, owing largely to the seriously impaired health of his wife, Judge Cox moved to Canyon City, Colorado, where he practiced law until February, 1883. His wife had in the meantime died, and on leaving Colorado, Judge Cox returned to Indiana, and established his home in the city of Peru. Here he has since given his attention to the practice of law, and to the duties of public office. He is known as one of the strong and versatile members of the bar, of Miami county, and has the highest ideals of his profession, and has always maintained the strictest standards of professional conduct.

Since his return to Indiana, Judge Cox has been much in public life. In 1887, Miami county sent him to the state legislature. While in the capital he was the first active promoter of the Employers' Liability Bill in Indiana, and though the bill failed of passage, owing to dissension

incident to the election of a United States senator, he paved the way for later legislation along the same line. In 1890 Judge Cox was honored by his associates and by the citizens of his circuit in election to the office of circuit judge, and on the bench made an able and conscientious administration, of such a character that he was retained in office by reelection in 1896. Judge Cox was thus on the circuit bench for twelve years, and while always absolutely fair and impartial in his decisions and maintaining the strictest discipline in his court, he proved one of the most popular judges who ever presided over the circuit court at Peru. Very few of his decisions ever received reversal by the higher courts. Since retiring from the bench in 1902 Judge Cox has been engaged in the practice of his profession at Peru. His clientage and his reputation place him among the leading members of the Indiana bar, and his services and counsel have been required in connection with many large and important interests.

Judge Cox has always been one of the effective advocates of the principles and policies of the Democratic party. During the years of his residence in Peru, he has been a delegate to practically every convention in Indiana. As a citizen he is liberal, loyal and progressive, and his influence and cooperation are always depended upon in the support of measures for the general good of the community. Judge Cox affiliates with the Masonic Order, the Knights of the Maccabees, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On March 14, 1867, Judge Cox married Miss Jennie Price, of Tipton. Her death occurred at Canyon City, Colorado, in September, 1882. Only one of their three children is living: Edward E., editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper at Hartford City, Indiana. In May, 1884, at Peru, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Cox to Miss Elizabeth Meinhardt. Her death occurred in 1893. Of the two children born to that marriage, Carl died when four years old, and Mary Elizabeth, who is a successful and popular kindergarten teacher, resides in Peru. In July, 1895, Judge Cox married Miss Addie Allman, of Huntington, Indiana. Mrs. Cox is one of the popular factors in church and social life at Peru.

**RAWLEY H. BOUSLOG.** Probably no man in Miami county, living or dead, has been more actively connected with public movements and important business enterprises than he whose name heads this brief sketch. Rawley H. Bouslog has risen by the force of his own industry, ability and sterling character to a position of power and influence in the commercial, manufacturing and religious circles of Peru. His career is one worthy of contemplation, for his activities have been along the lines of development wherein initiative and shrewd constructive ability have been constantly in demand.

Rawley H. Bouslog was born in Hancock county, Indiana, on the 12th day of October, 1852, and is a son of Rawley S. and Ann (Howell) Bouslog. His grandfather was John Bouslog, a native of Germany, who came to this country in 1772 and served the colonies in their struggle for independence. He and his family came as early pioneers to Henry county, Indiana, in 1828. There he lived until his death at the patriarchal age of one hundred and one years. Because of ill health, his son, Rawley S. Bouslog, who was a farmer, found it advisable to give up that vocation and became postmaster at Cleveland, Indiana, in which place he served until he removed to Indianapolis. In 1865 he came to Peru. His wife was the daughter of John Howell, an Irish Baptist preacher. They reared a family of eight children, four of whom are still living. One of these is the subject of our sketch, who was a lad of thirteen years when his parents came to Peru. He had the advantage



of schooling until he arrived at the age of fifteen. Though his days at the student's desk were ended abruptly at that age he did not lose sight of the value of an education. Accordingly, through his own studious habits and a desire for learning, he became a man of wide reading and one who would be accepted in any circle as the possessor of collegiate advantages.

The invalidism of his father made it necessary for the boy at an early age to assume a share of the burden of the family support, and he bravely took up the duties thus falling upon him. He was variously occupied until he was seventeen, when he secured employment as clerk in the First National Bank of Peru, of which E. H. Shirk was the president and Milton Shirk, cashier, Mr. Bouslog and Mr. Shirk being the only two clerks in the bank at that time. For something like five years Mr. Bouslog continued with the First National and then embarked in the real estate and loan business. As a side line he organized the Peru Building and Loan Association which became one of the city's leading financial institutions and as such exists today. He organized the Citizens' Gas and Pipe Line Company in 1887. Of this he became secretary-treasurer and manager. In 1895 he negotiated the sale of the plant which has always been regarded as one of the most successful financial coups of Peru's many large business operations. He was continued as manager under the new management for a number of years and at the same time he was employed as manager of the Peru Electric Manufacturing Company.

When the Oakdale Improvement Company, of which he was the originator, was organized in 1905, he gave up his other active employment and took over the management of that company. At about the same time he became interested in several enterprises, the most of which were allied with the Oakdale movement and all of which indeed he was largely instrumental in bringing to his home city. He became secretary-treasurer of the Peru Canning Company and now he is president of the Elmwood Land and Improvement Company, the vice-president and manager of the Chute & Butler Piano Manufacturing Company and vice-president of the Peru Chair Company. He is also a director of the Peru Commercial Club with which he has been identified in a like capacity ever since its organization. In politics he is a Democrat but he has never aspired to political preferment.

Mr. Bouslog has been twice married. The children of his first wife are Bessie R., who is married to B. D. Horton, a successful manufacturer of Detroit, Michigan; Miriam A. Bouslog who resides in New York City, and S. A. Bouslog who is in the insurance business in Peru. Some years after these children had been reared to manhood and womanhood Mr. Bouslog was married a second time, his bride being Mrs. Caroline L. Stowe whom he wedded in October, 1910. They live in one of the handsome homes of Peru and enjoy the acquaintance and society of a large number of Peru's estimable people.

Mr. Bouslog has been identified with the First Baptist church of Peru since 1871. He has been clerk, treasurer, trustee and deacon and moderator of the church. When the present handsome church edifice was erected he was chairman of the building committee which had the construction in charge. For two years he was president of the State Baptist Brotherhood and for the past three years has been on the advisory board of the National Baptist Brotherhood.

In practically every movement having for its aim the prosperity and progress of the city of Peru, Mr. Bouslog has been prominently identified. In promotion projects his acquaintances regard him as a genius and his ability along this line has many times proved valuable to the community.

HUGH McCaffrey, of this sketch, is the leading business man of Peru, and is a self made man. He is possessed, in a remarkable degree, of the qualities of the true merchant, having the insight, judgment, and executive ability which are the vital factors for every successful business man. It has become almost a byword amongst his associates that when Hugh McCaffrey is connected with any particular undertaking its success can no longer remain doubtful; hence he is now regarded as one of the most prosperous men in Northern Indiana. He began his career in this country forty-four years ago as a poor boy newly landed from Ireland and with nothing to advance him on the high road to success except his own ability and industry and his native intelligence.

Hugh McCaffrey was born in the County Armagh which is about half way between Dublin and Belfast, Ireland. He was raised on a farm, his father, James McCaffrey, was both a farmer and a dealer in cattle, and his early education was received in the National Schools of Ireland. When about eighteen years of age he left his native country, crossing the Atlantic and having to borrow money to take him on this long journey to the country where his ambition and energy might have full scope. He came to Logansport, Indiana, where his Uncle Michael McCaffrey had a very modest grocery store and went to work for him. In two years he had displayed such business ability that the management of the store was given to him completely, and during the nine years he was manager the business of the store grew to such proportions that it was necessary to start a branch store on another street, the net profits at the end of his period netted over One Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars. (\$110,000.00.)

In February, 1879, he started the present business in Peru on the corner of Broadway and Second streets. In January, 1881, he purchased the building on East Main street and moved the business there. In 1886 he purchased the present building and established the flourishing branch business in Huntington, Indiana. In 1889 he purchased the present building and established the prosperous branch business in Kokomo. In 1892 he purchased the Peru Milling Company and after running it a few years finding it was not up-to-date he decided to build and in 1895 he built the present three hundred barrel mill using the former building for an elevator. In 1900 he erected the present building and established the Peru Wholesale Grocery Company, which has done so much to make Peru a wholesale center, and it now ranks among the best wholesale business houses in Indiana. In 1905 he erected the very handsome Department Store Building which would be a credit to any city in the country. He now occupies it with an immense stock.

Mr. McCaffrey was married January, 1885, to Miss Caroline Frances Sullivan, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Florence Sullivan, well known and highly respected citizens of Peru. Mr. and Mrs. McCaffrey have reared a large family, eight sons and seven daughters, and all are living except two sons. A handsomer family you could not find anywhere, one better looking than the other, but how could it be otherwise, as there is not a finer looking couple in Peru than Mr. and Mrs. McCaffrey. Mrs. McCaffrey after rearing fifteen children is a remarkably well preserved woman and is extremely youthful in appearance. She received her education at the Loretto Academy in Denver, Colorado, where she completed special courses in studies, languages, and music, and later was graduated from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, receiving two gold medals. She belongs to the Alumnae of that noted institution. Today she is an active member of the Peru Drama League Club, of the Dramatic Club, and the Matinee Musical Club. Mr. McCaffrey has always taken a very active interest in the building up of the city which has been his



home for the past thirty-three years. He is now serving his fourth term as president of the Commercial Club and during that time has assisted in the locating of eight factories, and the shops of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, and many other things, in fact there is no improvement that came to the city since he made it his home but always found him in the front rank, as one of the leaders. And while he loves his adopted country and its flag, he is still loyal to the land of his birth and has always subscribed liberally to assist her in all her difficulties, hoping that she may yet enjoy Home Rule and Liberty. Mr. and Mrs. McCaffrey and family are devout members of the Catholic Church.

**ETHAN T. REASONER.** At the time of his death on July 16, 1913, Ethan T. Reasoner had for thirty-five years practiced as a member of the Peru bar. Not only by reason of his long practice, but also for his thorough and well tested ability he was one of the leaders in his profession, had enjoyed a large practice and had received important honors conferred upon him by his home county. Like many other successful men of the law, Mr. Reasoner entered his profession through the avenue of school teaching, and it was by long and hard application and much self-denial that he got firmly established in the ranks of the leading professional men of Indiana.

Ethan T. Reasoner at the time of his death was senior member of the firm of Reasoner & Ward, regarded as one of the strongest legal firms in Miami county. He was born in Grant county, this state, September 21, 1851, a son of Washington F. and Rachel (Slater) Reasoner. His boyhood days were spent upon his father's farm in Grant county, and during that period he attended each winter the district schools. He subsequently was a student in the Muncie high school, and also spent two years at college. During seven years of his early life he presided over a school room and directed the first step of his scholars in the road of learning. For three years he was a student of law in the office of Templar & Gregory at Muncie. In July, 1877, he moved to Peru, where he had his residence until his death, and where for thirty-six years he continued in the active and successful practice of law.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Reasoner was for six years deputy prosecuting attorney of the old Twenty-Seventh Judicial circuit, which was composed of Wabash and Miami counties. In 1887 he was elected prosecuting attorney, and was reelected to the same office from the newly created fifty-first circuit, composed of Miami county alone. His next service in larger official capacity was as a member of the lower house of the state legislature to which he was elected in 1904. While in the legislature he was often a leader in the work of productive legislation, and succeeded in having enacted the automobile law, the first effective measure passed regulating motor cars in the state; and he was also author of the law safeguarding the various inland lakes of the State of Indiana. As an official of the Judicial System, and as a legislator, his record was one of efficiency and fidelity to his duties.

Mr. Reasoner in 1880 married Miss Florence L. Meranda, and to their marriage was born one son Mark Howard. Fraternally the late Mr. Reasoner was well known in the Masonic Order. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church.

**LEROY A. SHIVELY.** The career of Mr. Shively, now probably the best known and the ablest auctioneer in Miami county, has many points of interest. He is a native of Miami county, who in his young manhood left his home surroundings and began his practical adventures in the west. After a number of years of more or less successful enterprises in west-

ern states, he returned to his old county, and now for twenty years has been actively identified with the farming and general business affairs of this locality. Mr. Shively was born on a farm in Pipe Creek township on July 26, 1869.

His father was the late Daniel P. Shively, whose career and character are worthy of long remembrance in the community which was his home for so many years, and to which he contributed so many uplifting and substantial influences. Daniel P. Shively was born near Dayton, Ohio, was reared on a farm in the discipline of hard work and when a boy received only limited educational advantages. As he grew up he began to appreciate his lack of schooling, and at every opportunity that was offered he studied and read with consuming ardor the most instructive literature. His family were strong in the faith of the German-Baptist church and he was reared in that faith. In his community in Miami county he came in time to exercise the influence of one of the leading citizens, and with his intense energy and religious zeal almost naturally took a place as local preacher among the adherents of his own faith. He was known as a keen reasoner, a profound student of the bible, and in every relation of life his influence was for morality and practical good. His death occurred in July, 1900. An immense concourse of sorrowing friends followed his body to its last resting place, and on that day were paid many heartfelt tributes to his noble nature and the many worthy deeds of his lifetime.

LeRoy A. Shively spent his boyhood in the old community of Pipe Creek township. He attended the district school which was nearest the old home and trained his body by the vigorous work of the farm and the sports and diversions which country boys usually follow. When twenty years of age he started out for himself and chose the west as a field for his early enterprise. He was in Kansas and Colorado for some time. Among the work which he did in Kansas was as engineer for the Great Bend Milling Company. His experience in running an engine was practically nothing, but the company wanted an engineer, and he wanted work, so they arranged matters to their mutual satisfaction. He continued in his place as engineer for about eighteen months, and when he left it was on his own volition and not because the company requested it. During the following year he was engaged in carpentering and contracting, and for two years was engaged in prospecting and work in the mines at Galena, Kansas.

On returning to Miami county in 1893, Mr. Shively established himself on a farm and began the breeding of Hereford cattle, an enterprise which he continued for six years. Selling out, he then associated himself with the late Col. Allie Powell in live stock auctioneering. During three years of this association he made his home at Wabash. After the death of Col. Powell in 1906, Mr. Shively continued his vocation as auctioneer on his own responsibility, and has had a large business in that calling. For three years he was engaged in the management of the farm known as the Jerry Hardwick farm for the Shirk estate.

Mr. Shively is in politics a Democrat, and a good citizen without participating in practical party affairs. On August 2, 1899, he married Miss Carrie B. Jacobs, of Pipe Creek township. Their two children are Ralph D. and Dorris E. Mrs. Shively is a member of the Methodist church.

EDWARD L. MILLER. Much of the business life of Edward L. Miller has been passed in Peru, and during the years of his residence here he has been prominently concerned with some of the telling enterprises



of the city. The financial institutions of the city have come in for an unusual share of his attention, and certain of them owe their existence to his enterprise and ability in organization. He is a man of especial talent along the line of finance, and that quality, combined with his splendid character, have made him a dominant force for good in the community.

Born in Cass county, Indiana, on February 23, 1848, Edward Livingston Miller came to Miami county in his young boyhood and his life thereafter, until he reached years of manhood, was passed in either of these counties. He attended the public schools of Peru and when about sixteen found it incumbent upon him to make his own way in the world. His first independent work was that of a farm laborer. Upon the organization of the firm of Kilgore and Shirk in Peru, he began clerking and continued with that firm until 1871.

In that year he gave up this work and carried out a long cherished plan of adding something to his general education by entering Franklin College. However, before the close of his first year there, he found it necessary to go to Cincinnati where he entered a business that eventually led him through the South. Having spent most of his time for seven years in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, he returned to Peru in 1881 and once more took up his clerkship in the store in which he had formerly been employed, but which was now known as the store of Shirk and Miller.

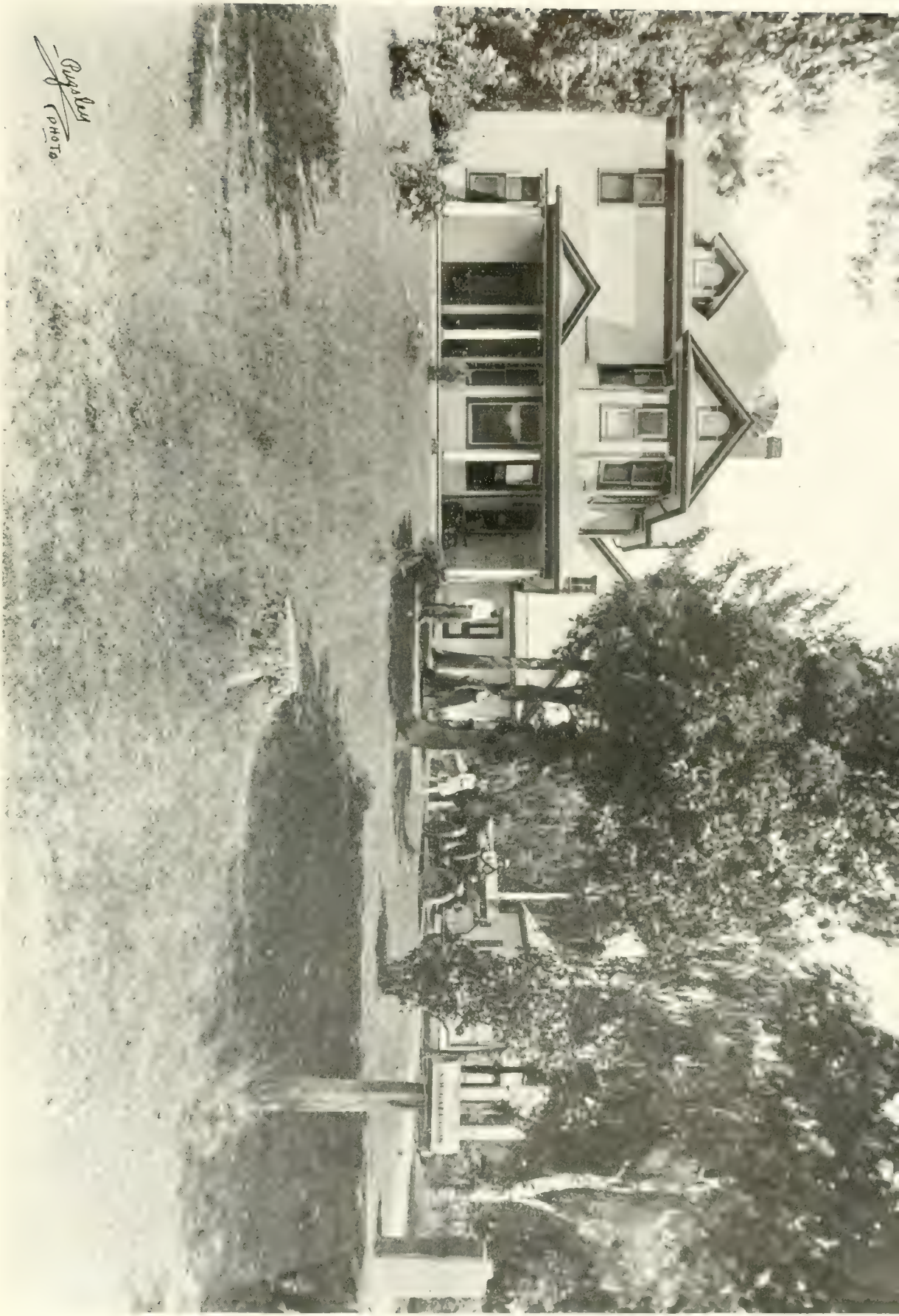
In 1891 Mr. Miller organized the Miami County Loan and Savings Association, which, so far as is known, is the only strictly Building and Loan Association that ever successfully did a general banking business in connection with its regular routine work. During the thirteen years of its existence, Mr. Miller was its secretary and general manager. In January, 1904, this concern was merged into the Peru Trust Company of which he has since been the secretary, and the greater portion of the time, its general manager.

Mr. Miller is Progressive in his politics and was once a Democrat. He is a member of the Baptist church of Peru and has been, without intermission, an active member of its Sunday School since 1881.

On January 18, 1883, he married Miss Kate A. Leonard, the daughter of Rev. Geo. E. Leonard, D. D., for eleven years pastor of the Baptist church in Peru and who had at this time just completed his first of many years' work as superintendent of mission work in Ohio, being the secretary of the Ohio Baptist Convention. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have one son, Leonard Edward Miller, who was born February 2, 1892, and married Miss Marcia A. Tarleton of Franklin, Indiana, August 4, 1913, and is now living in Chicago.

SCHUYLER W. GALLAHAN, of Miami county, Indiana, belongs to that splendid class of men who mean so much to this country today and in the future are going to mean much more, the farmer of education, ambition and a knowledge of his power in the world of modern business. Mr. Gallahan has been engaged in farming in this section of the state for many years and has made a success of his life's work. He has taken an active part in the public affairs of the county, always willing and anxious to do anything in his power to further the interests of the community.

Schuyler W. Gallahan is a native of Cass county, Indiana, where he was born on a farm near New Waverly, on the 24th of August, 1863. He is a son of Watson Clark Gallahan and Martha (Arnout) Gallahan. Watson Clark Gallahan was born in Ohio, of Irish parentage and when he was a boy of about seven years his parents left Ohio and made their way westward. They settled in Miami county, Indiana, passing their first night in this county near the present site of the Eel River Christian



"BIRCH LANE FARM"  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. SCHUYLER W. GALLAHAN





church in Jefferson township of Miami county. They built a shelter in the shape of a lean-to made of brush which they cut along side the road. Unfortunately a heavy snow fell during the night and the flimsy shelter might just as well have been built of tissue paper. Here on section 11, in the northeast part of Jefferson township, the family established themselves. The father of Watson Clark Gallahan spent only a year of his life in Miami county as a farmer, dying during the following year. He left a widow and a large family of children and the privations and hardships which this little band endured were many, but to them Mr. Gallahan owed much that was strong in his character. It was in his mother's home that the first Christian church in Jefferson township was organized. After attaining his majority Watson Clark Gallahan moved to Cass county and there married. He became a prosperous farmer and spent most of his life near New Waverly where both he and his wife died.

Schuyler W. Gallahan was reared on his father's farm near New Waverly and after attending the district schools in this vicinity he went to Logansport, Indiana, where he entered a normal school. After some time spent there he became a student at the Northern Indiana Normal School in Valparaiso, Indiana. After his education was completed he became a teacher and for seven or eight years followed this profession. He then determined that farming was after all the best and most independent life that a man could lead. It was about this time that he married Miss Nellie J. Myers, a daughter of Isaac Myers, the ceremony taking place on the 16th of September, 1890. After his marriage he lived on the Myers farm for three years and then moved to his present property, located on section 28, in Jefferson township, near Denver. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gallahan, all living, namely, L. Milton, R. Vernon, and Glenn; L. Milton resides with his father and is an agriculturist; R. Vernon resides in Minnesota and is a farmer; Glenn is a resident of Cass county, of Clinton township. Mrs. Gallahan died and on the 16th of April, 1903, Mr. Gallahan married again, his wife being Miss Nan Stephen. Mr. and Mrs. Gallahan have taken a little girl to rear and educate and to give her the benefits of good Christian teaching and upright training. After living on his farm on section 28 for three years, Mr. Gallahan removed to a farm on section 21, and here he has since lived. He owns altogether 213 acres of land in Jefferson township.

Mr. Gallahan in his political affiliations is a member of the Democratic party. He is at present a member of the Advisory Board of Jefferson township. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church and for many years Mr. Gallahan has been a teacher and the superintendent of the Sunday school of this church. The pretty homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Gallahan is known as "The Birch Lane Farm," and the estate just across the highway is called "The South Side Lodge."

**MARSHALL SMITH.** Among Amboy merchants, one of the most successful and enterprising is Marshall Smith. Mr. Smith began business here about ten years ago, and with very little credit or experience in mercantile affairs. He applied energy and the most scrupulous business methods to his business, and since then has been progressing each year to a higher point in the scale of success and in the esteem of a large circle of friends and admirers.

Marshall Smith was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, July 21, 1875, a son of Sylvanus Gale and Margaret (O'Neill) Smith. His paternal grandfather was James H. Smith, and his maternal grandfather was Henry O'Neill. When Mr. Smith was twelve years old his mother died and his father married the second time. The seven children in the



father's family were as follows: Frank, who married Mary Taylor, a daughter of Jacob Taylor, and is father of two children, namely: Gladys J., born April 4, 1894, and Oscar Gale, born August 26, 1898; Sallie, who died in infancy; Hannah J. who married Arthur J. Hellings; Claude, who married J. Ness; William Otis, who died at the age of twenty-one; Henry M., who married Gertrude Wilson; and Marshall. Mr. Marshall Smith has been a resident of Miami county since 1903. He was reared on a farm in Jefferson county, and during his boyhood never saw a railroad train, his advantages in school and otherwise corresponding in nature to this experience. He went from Jefferson to Cass county, where for about ten years he was in the employ of others, and gradually got ahead a little bit in the world. Mr. Smith had charge of the first interurban car ever run into Greentown. For some time he was engaged in the grocery business at Kokomo. When he established himself at Amboy he had no financial resources of his own to speak of and has never received any financial aid from any other source. He established his present business nine years ago and had a working capital of \$215. He sold goods on consignment, and paid for them as he sold them. He gradually by degrees increased his business until at the present time he carries a stock valued at \$1,700 and does not confine his business to Amboy alone, but trades in various parts of this vicinity. Fraternally Mr. Smith is affiliated with the Kokomo Lodge of Masonry No. 93, and the Council No. 60, and with the Chapter of Knights Templar No. 104. He attends the Methodist church.

On June 23, 1895, Mr. Smith married Minnie L. Wertz, a daughter of Levi and Cordelia (Gilbert) Wertz. The two children born of their marriage were: Victor, born December 18, 1899; and Pauline, born March 23, 1909, and died January 15, 1912.

W. P. MILLER. The career of W. P. Miller, one of Amboy's most substantial business men, is eloquently illustrative of the success that may be gained through persevering effort and untiring industry. It proves that neither capital nor influential friends are necessary to the youth of ambition and determination and that persistence and integrity, if properly directed, will, in the end, eventually result in success. Starting upon his career handicapped by lack of early educational advantages, Mr. Miller courageously fought his way up, step by step, until today he is recognized as one of his community's leading men, a worthy representative of honorable self-made manhood. W. P. Miller was born on a farm in Jackson township, Miami county, Indiana, December 22, 1859, and is a son of Jesse W. and Louise Anna (Parks) Miller.

John D. Miller, the paternal grandfather of W. P. Miller, was born in Germany, and in young manhood left the Fatherland and crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel, arriving in New York after a voyage that consumed thirteen weeks. From the Empire State he subsequently made his way to Henry county, Indiana, and in 1840, brought his family to Miami county, where the remaining years of his life were passed in clearing and cultivating a farm. Jesse W. Miller was born in Henry county, Indiana, and was still a youth when he accompanied his parents to Miami county. Here he was married to Louisa Anna Parks, daughter of William P. Parks, and they settled on a farm in Harrison township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Miller passing away in 1886 and her husband following her to the grave in 1907.

W. P. Miller received but few advantages of an educational nature in his youth, these being limited to a few months in the district schools

of Harrison township. He was a bright, ambitious and intelligent lad, however, and made the most of his chances, thus being better schooled than many of his fellows who had better opportunities but were not of such an observant nature. Later, with money he had managed to save during his boyhood, he was able to take a course in the Valparaiso University, although this was when he had reached the age of twenty-four years. At that time he left the parental roof, and for a time thereafter was engaged in farming, but gave up the life of an agriculturist to enter mercantile pursuits, becoming a clerk in the general store of Alexander Kiese, at Amboy. Two years later he was made a partner in the business, and on selling his interests went with Thomas Kiese and W. H. Zimmerman, of Peru. While there he served four years in the capacity of postmaster. When Mr. Miller disposed of his interests at Peru, he came to Amboy, and for seven or eight years conducted a general store under the style of W. P. Miller, but subsequently reorganized his business, changed the name of the concern to the Amboy Department Store, and immediately began doing business on a considerably larger scale. Since that time he has doubled the stock, and his trade has increased proportionately, the establishment now being known as one of the largest of its kind in Miami county. Mr. Miller is an excellent business man, possessing the ability to see an opportunity, the courage to grasp it, and the capacity to carry it through to a successful conclusion. He has studied the needs of his trade and selected his stock accordingly, and his courteous treatment of customers has made him a general favorite. While he has been busy with his own enterprises, he has not been neglectful of the duties of citizenship, as for fifteen years he has served as a member of the school board, and has given his support to various movements calculated to advance his community. His religious connection is with the Friends Church, of which he has been treasurer, as well as a member of the building committee. His fraternal connection is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he numbers many friends in the local lodge.

In 1889 Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Miss Louise E. Butler, daughter of Josiah and Hannah (Wason) Butler, and two children have been born to this union: Jesse Desbrough, born October 20, 1892; and Paul B., born October 8, 1895, both of whom reside at home.

REV. WILLIAM M. REYBURN. Born in Virginia, October 21, 1792, William M. Reyburn when very young emigrated to Ohio, settling near the city of Lewisburg, where he grew to man's estate. He was raised a farmer, but early entered the ministry of the Methodist church, receiving his license to preach about 1830. In October, 1831, he came to Miami county and settled on land adjoining the present city of Peru, where he opened a farm and spent the remainder of his life. He was one of the first preachers in Miami county, and in addition to the duties of his sacred calling took an active interest in the political affairs of the county, and was elected state representative in 1841 and senator in 1843. He was a soldier of the War of 1812, and while a resident of Ohio held the office of major in the militia of that state.

He married Sarah Black, of Ohio, June 13, 1816, and to this union were born the following children: Eliza J., James M., Caroline, Sobieski, John C., Margaret, Sarah, William B., Joseph and Sarah—all of whom have long since passed away but Joseph, who alone survives. Mrs. Reyburn died January 28, 1849, and Mr. Reyburn's second marriage occurred September 26, 1850, when he wedded Anna S. Woodward. Rev. William M. Reyburn's death occurred June 1, 1854.

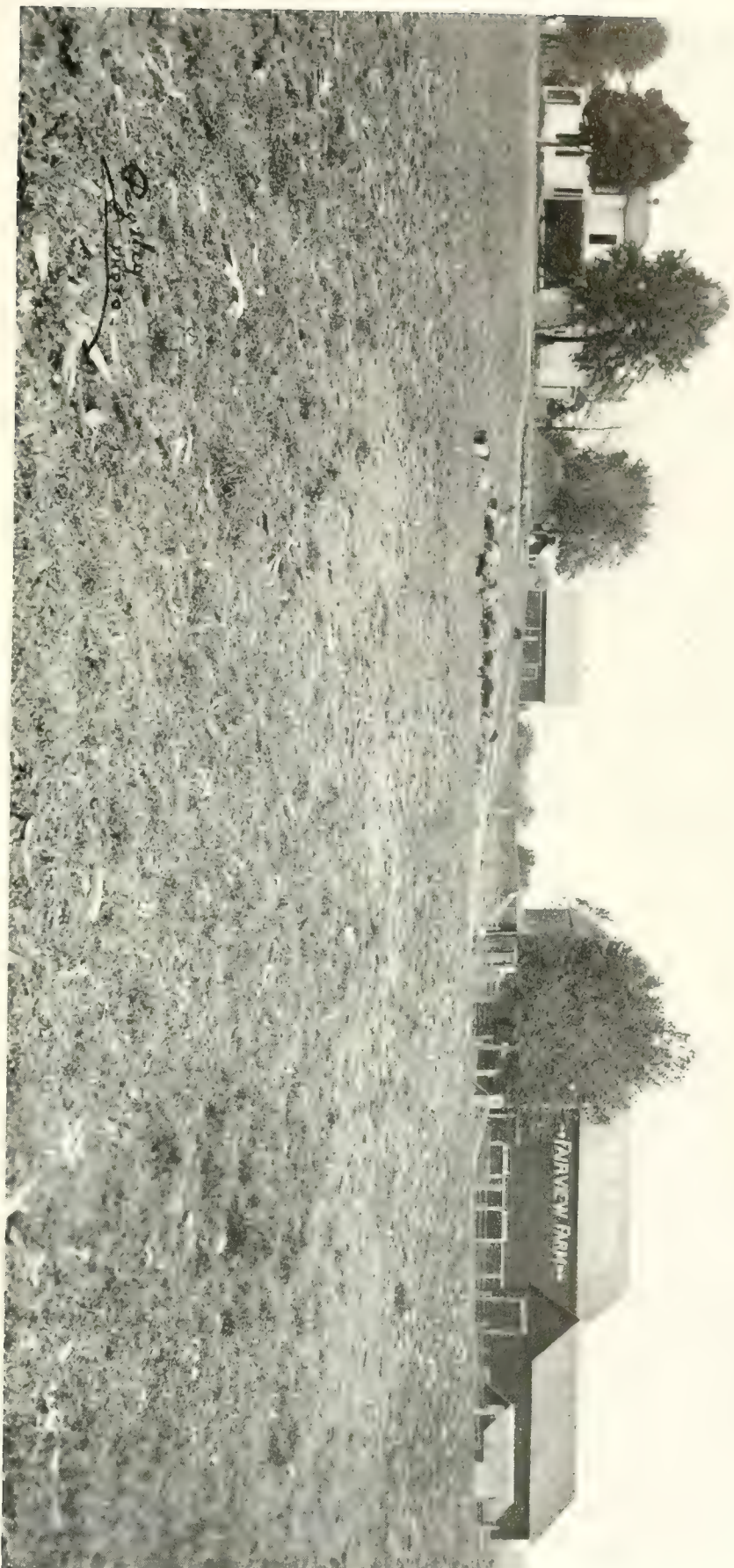


AARON G. ZOOK. The German-American agriculturist is the motive power who moved with successful activity the progress of our nation in wealth and prosperity. In the beautiful county of Miami, Indiana, the home of valuable and attractive farmsteads, Aaron G. Zook has played a conspicuous part. We append a brief review of Mr. Zook which will be read with much interest by the citizens of Miami county.

He is a native of this county, born May 6, 1853, and the only living child of his parents, William and Mary Anne (Cline) Zook. Mr. Zook traces his ancestry to old Germany, but his immediate progenitor was of Pennsylvania birth. William Zook was born at Morris Cove, Pennsylvania, in 1815 and died October 18, 1902. He was but a little boy when his parents came to Ohio in pioneer style. In 1840 they came to Indiana, and settled in Union township, Miami county, and the first land he owned was eighty acres of almost virgin soil. Their humble home was a log cabin, peculiar to that early day, surrounded by brush and briars, and a rude puncheon floor, and through the crevices in the floor grew the briars and the children would have to creep under the beds and cut them down. Some remnants of the Pottawatomies and Miami Indians were here at that time, and deer and wild turkeys and William Zook killed deer in the vicinity of his cabin home. This epoch of entry to Miami county was before any railroads existed and the pleasant thriving city of Peru of about sixteen thousand population, was a straggling little village and not more than two or three little stores there. In making the trip from Peru to his home it took one and a half days, and the territory just north of the city was an entire swamp and quagmire, and the roads were what were called "corduroy." William Zook acquired ten acres more and finally seventy-three acres more, and this seventy-three acres is a farm his son Aaron now occupies. Mr. Zook was a typical pioneer, honorable in all transactions and lived the righteous life and instilled in his son the same principles which have been carried out by Mr. Zook and his noble wife. William Zook was a Republican and he voted for General John C. Fremont, the first nominee of the Republican party in 1856. Both Mr. and Mrs. Zook were devout Methodists and did their part in all benevolences. They are interred in the Weasau Cemetery, where a beautiful monument stands sacred to their memory.

Aaron G. Zook has been reared in the school of agriculture in Miami county, all his life. He received only an ordinary education in the old subscription schools, which continued about three months each year. The first school he attended was the Weasau School, which was a log cabin school house, with slab seats and the desk to write on was a broad board resting on wooden pins driven into the wall for support, and when the pupils wanted to write, they had to turn around and sit facing the wall and long boards. When but a little boy he has seen them use the old goose quill pen. What a remarkable change! Now the Twentieth Century modern school buildings dot the fair lands in all directions and modernly equipped with the best of books, able teachers, and all conveniences.

Mr. Zook remained at the home with his parents, working and saving a little money each year, and December 16, 1875 he wedded Miss Emma Alice Delp, and to them have been born five children as follows: Alma G., married Walter O. Kniseley, a resident of Kokomo, Indiana, and they have three children: Dorothy, Robert and Eugene. Mrs. Kniseley was educated in the common schools and is a Baptist while her husband is a Methodist. Elbert A. is a graduated physician of chiropractic school, and a resident of Denver, Ind.; he wedded Miss Fern Bell, and they have one son Raymond, and they are all Baptists. Omer E. on April



“FAIRVIEW FARM”  
RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. AARON G. ZOOK





9, 1914, married Alta B. Griffith, a prominent teacher, enjoying the reputation of being one, if not the best primary teacher in the county. She is also proficient in music and is a Baptist. They reside at the old homestead. His parents having vacated their original dwelling, now occupy a cottage erected near by. He received a good practical education and spent two years in high school, also ten weeks at Purdue University; politically he is a Progressive and a member of the Baptist church. Floyd W., a resident of Felsmere, Florida, and an agriculturist, also received a good education and spent two years in high school; he also spent ten weeks at Purdue and is a graduate of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. He spent one year in St. Louis, Mo., acting as assistant pastor of the Euclid Avenue Baptist church. Donald L., the youngest, has finished the public schools, and is now in the first year's work in high school. He is one of the crack spellers of Miami county, and in a state contest at Indianapolis was a close sixth in the state.

As is noticed, Mr. and Mrs. Zook have given the children the best of education, fitting them for the higher walks of life, and at the same time have given them that good religious and moral home training which is most beneficent in making of worthy citizens.

Mrs. Zook is a native of Fulton county, Indiana, born June 18, 1859, and is the sixth in a family of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, born to Edward J. and Mary Ann (Moon) Delp. There are seven of the family living, three are residents of Fulton county, one in California, one in Michigan, and one in Chicago. Father Delp was a native of the Keystone state of Pennsylvania, but traced his lineage back to Germany. He was also a pioneer of Indiana, and died in Rochester, this state. He was a minister in the Baptist church and fought as a true soldier in defense of the union through the entire Civil war, and was a member of the Army of the Cumberland. He was badly wounded, shot in the left arm with a buckshot, and carried an ounce ball in his body for years, but it was extracted before he passed away. Politically he was a Republican, and officially was a trustee of Union township, as well as a trustee in Fulton county. He was a gentleman of principle and honor and left this rich heritage to his children. Both Rev. Delp and his wife are buried in Rochester, Indiana. Mrs. Delp was a native of Starke county, Ohio, and was of German lineage. Mrs. Aaron Zook was a little maiden of only twelve years when she became a resident of Miami county, and received her education in the common schools. She is a lady of most genial, cordial personality, and she can number her friends by the hundreds. As is seen in her daily life she has been her husband's counselor and aid at all times in the establishment of their beautiful home and the rearing of their children. She is a member of the Baptist church and a member of the Missionary Society and Mr. Zook is one of the trustees of the Baptist church at Denver, Indiana. When the young couple, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Zook, began their married life they had little capital. He had saved up about five hundred dollars of his earnings, and after purchasing their little outfit there was but little left. But young and possessed of that aggressive German spirit of ambition characteristic of that stock they boldly faced the possibilities as well as the hardships of life. Their first little home was crude indeed, as they could look through the broken shingles and see the light of day. But they burdened themselves with the purchase of the seventy-three acres of land comprising their present homestead, and went in debt twenty-eight hundred dollars. With unflagging zeal, industry and economy, they cancelled the debt and added acre by acre until today in 1913 they have one of the most beautiful homesteads of Union township, comprising two hundred and



sixty-eight and a half acres and the commodious and modernly constructed residence, equipped with the latest conveniences, lighted by an acetylene plant, and cozily furnished, as well as the large and well built barn and outbuildings attest the success they have attained.

Their beautiful home lies on an eminence overlooking the surrounding country for miles, and the sobriquet of "Fair View Farm" is appropriate. Mr. and Mrs. Zook have no occasion to go to the seaside or watering places for comfort and pleasure in such a home. They are citizens who enjoy the esteem and respect of all who know them for their high quality of character, and it is most fitting to give them an honored place in the history of Miami county, Indiana. Mr. Zook has never aspired for political office, but has been ready to take his place as a true citizen.

**WILLIAM N. HOOD.** One of the original proprietors of the site of Peru. William N. Hood was a native of Ohio, born about the year 1791 or '92. His father, Andrew Hood, emigrated from Kentucky in an early day and was one of the first residents in the vicinity of Dayton, near which city the subject of this biography passed his youth and early manhood. In 1819 William Hood came to Indiana and located in Fort Wayne, where for a number of years he carried on a successful mercantile business, dealing extensively with the Indians during the period of his residence there. He moved to Miami county in 1831 and purchased of Mr. Holman a large tract of land on the Wabash river, including that upon which the city of Peru now stands. In 1834, in partnership with Richard L. Britton and Hon. Jesse L. Williams, he laid out the original plat of the city for the ostensible purpose of securing the county seat. After locating the town Mr. Hood engaged in speculating in lands and real estate, which he followed until his death, and in which he was very successful, accumulating a valuable property and becoming wealthy.

While a resident of Fort Wayne he became acquainted with and married Sophia C. Ewing, daughter of Alexander and Charlotte E. Ewing, who were among the early prominent residents of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Hood reared five children, viz.: Andrew A., Richard B., William E., David B. and Susan W., wife of Howard Huggins, of New York city.

Mr. Hood was a man of fine abilities, and in 1836 was elected to represent Miami county in the state legislature. He served one term, and in 1838 was re-elected to the same position, but did not live to enter the second time upon the discharge of his official duties, dying on the 9th day of July of the latter year. Mrs. Hood survived her husband about thirty-one years, dying in 1869.

**JAMES W. HURST.** On a beautiful and fertile farm, a short distance southeast of the town of Macy, in Allen township, lives James W. Hurst, who is one of the influential citizens of that part of Miami county. He was born in Piqua county, Ohio, September 28, 1839, the youngest son of William and Sarah (Alkire) Hurst, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Kentucky. William Hurst died in 1841 and four years later his widow came with his children to Miami county, locating first in the town of Peru, but the next spring she removed to a farm in Richland township. In 1847 the family removed to Allen township.

James W. Hurst was educated in the public schools and taught one term in the winter of 1859-60. Shortly after that he engaged in mercantile pursuits in the town of Chili. He remained in this business but a short time, when he settled upon a farm in Allen township. In 1867 he opened a general store in the town of Macy and also engaged in the grain business, in which he continued for several years. He then sold his inter-

ests in the town and since that time has devoted his entire attention to farming and stock raising. Mr. Hurst has been one of the most active men in his locality in securing the construction of ditches for the reclamation of wet lands.

Politically he is a Republican. He has served two terms as county commissioner, being elected to that office in 1878 and again in 1906. In 1884 he was the Republican nominee for representative in the state legislature, but was defeated along with his party ticket. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and was the first worshipful master of Lincoln Lodge, No. 523, when it was instituted at Macy in 1875. He and his wife both belong to the Christian church at Macy.

On April 12, 1876, he married Miss Romannia C. Hoover and to this marriage was born eight children, three of whom died in infancy.

**OMER HOLMAN.** For more than four score years the Holman family has been identified with the fortunes and business interests of Peru and Miami county. Joseph Holman, the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, laid out the town of Miamisport in 1829; his son, Solomon Holman, the grandfather of Omer, was the civil engineer who established the first street grade in the town of Peru; William J. Holman was the principal promoter of the Peru & Indianapolis (now the Lake Erie & Western) Railroad, and other members of the family have been interested in various ways in the industries of the county.

Omer Holman is a son of Joseph and Melissa (Wallick) Holman and was born in Peru on March 28, 1872. In 1885, while attending the public schools, he began his business career as a carrier for the *Peru Journal*, delivering papers to subscribers after school hours. He graduated in the Peru high school on June 11, 1891, and eleven days later became a reporter on the *Journal*, where he remained until March 4, 1893, when he formed a partnership with John Diehl for the publication of a paper called the *Comet*. In August following Mr. Diehl sold out to W. M. Brenton and the firm of Brenton & Holman began the publication of the *Daily Bulletin*. A history of these papers will be found in Chapter XIV. After the suspension of the *Bulletin* Mr. Holman again became associated with the *Journal* as carrier and reporter. During his eighteen years' service with the *Journal* he estimates that he walked 45,000 miles. On January 6, 1906, he entered the employ of W. W. Lockwood, editor and proprietor of the *Peru Republican*, and has since been connected with that paper, being now the lessee and publisher. He has also at different times been the Peru correspondent of a score or more of metropolitan papers in various cities.

Mr. Holman is the secretary of the Peru lodge of the National Union and a member of Peru Lodge, No. 249, Loyal Order of Moose. He has been a member of the Presbyterian church since 1893. In his political views he is an unswerving Republican and has served as secretary of the Miami county central committee of that party, but has never been a candidate for public office. On October 29, 1902, he was united in marriage with May Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Wood.

**CHARLES ALBERT COLE.** If one was asked to prepare a list of the members of the Miami county bar in the order of their prominence, the name of Charles A. Cole would be found near the top of that list. He is a native son of Miami county, having been born on a farm in Peru township, March 21, 1855, a son of Alphonso A. and Sarah (Henton) Cole. After the death of his father in 1862 the family removed to the city of Peru, where he has since made his home. Charles A. Cole was educated in the public schools and Indiana University, at Bloomington, but left the latter insti-



tution in his junior year. He then entered the law office of Lyman Walker, where he fully equipped himself for the practice of law, and was admitted to the Miami county bar on January 8, 1878.

Since that time "Judge" Cole, as he is familiarly known, has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Peru. He has always taken a keen interest in public affairs; has served as county attorney and as a member of the city school board, and has been a willing helper of practically every movement for the moral, educational and material uplift of the community. As a Democrat he has participated actively in a number of political campaigns and in 1880 was elected on that ticket to represent Miami county in the lower house of the state legislature, where he served upon some of the important committees and rendered a good account of his stewardship.

Mr. Cole is a member of the Presbyterian church and his fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias. On December 3, 1884, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Harvey J. and Eliza M. Shirk, of Peru. To this union have been born a son and daughter—Albert Harvey and Sarah Helen Cole. The son graduated in both the literary and law departments of Indiana University and is now in partnership with his father in the practice of law. Miss Sarah H. Cole attended Indiana University for a time and in 1913 took vocal instruction in New York.

HON. JOHN A. GRAHAM. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, January 8, 1817. His parents, natives of Ireland, emigrated to this country in 1815, landing in Baltimore, after undergoing great hardships during a prolonged voyage in which they narrowly escaped being shipwrecked. In 1826 the family removed to Pittsburg, in 1827 to Wheeling, and in 1828 returned to Baltimore. In 1830 they went to Harper's Ferry, and finally, in 1832, settled in Indiana.

John A. Graham was employed at Harper's Ferry as clerk until 1835. In May of that year, being then eighteen, he started for Indiana. At Wheeling he took passage on a steamboat and was landed at midnight, a solitary passenger, at the mouth of the Wabash. He there expected to find a town filled with enterprising people, but he saw only a dreary waste of turbid waters. No sound greeted his ear but the hoot of the owl and the crash and crunch of the running drift. After sitting on his baggage at the water's edge until near daylight, he discerned from the top of the bank something like a building in the obscurity of the morning fog, and detected a faint sound of human voices coming from a point further up the river. About a half mile from where he landed he found a steamboat bound for the upper Wabash, and after various adventures and detentions, he succeeded in reaching Peru. There he made arrangements for taking charge of a store in Logansport for Alexander Wilson. He remained in the latter place until the business was closed up in June, 1835, when he returned to Peru. He acted as clerk for Mr. Wilson until 1839, when he became a partner. The firm of Wilson & Company packed pork in 1839. It was the first undertaking of the kind in the place and proved a financial failure, owing to the low water in the Maumee, which prevented the quick transportation to New York. They built flatboats and in 1840 commenced sending pork to New Orleans. This also proved a failure, on account of hard times and low prices.

In 1841 and 1843 Mr. Graham was elected sheriff of Miami county. In 1846 he was appointed clerk in the Wabash & Erie Canal land office, and he held this place until 1847, when the office was moved to Logansport, under an act of the legislature adjusting the state debt, known as the Butler bill. He then bought the printing office at Peru and June 28, 1848.

issued the first number of the *Miami County Sentinel*. This paper was successfully managed by him as editor and proprietor until 1861, when he sold out and retired from the editorial chair. In 1850 Mr. Graham was a delegate to the state convention to form a new state constitution. In 1870 he was elected clerk of the Miami circuit court and at different times served as a member of the town and city council. He was special agent of the United States to pay the Miamis in the years 1857 and 1859, and held many other positions of trust. In 1881 he was elected mayor of the city of Peru. He was a life-long Democrat and in religion was a Roman Catholic.

He was married to Caroline A. Avaline in Peru, June 28, 1842, and three sons and six daughters were born to them. Mr. Graham was below the average height but was heavily and compactly built. His opportunities for an education were limited but he was a constant reader and had a wonderful memory. He was recognized as the "Historian of Miami." As a writer he was fluent, precise as to dates and figures, and full of humor. Few men possessed the confidence of the community in a more eminent degree. His death occurred May 27, 1894.

ALFRED EDGAR ZEHRING. Among the progressive farmers of the southern part of Miami county, perhaps none is better known than Alfred E. Zehring, who lives upon the farm in the southwestern part of Deer Creek township, where he was born on August 9, 1860. His parents, William and Susannah (Feagler) Zehring, were both natives of Ohio, the former born in Butler county, May 3, 1821, and the latter born in Montgomery county. They were married on August 20, 1845, and in 1857 came to Miami county, Indiana. William Zehring then purchased the farm of 160 acres in Deer Creek township where the subject of this sketch now resides. He soon became prominently identified with public affairs; was one of the Democratic leaders in the county; served as trustee of the township; was elected county commissioner in 1866, and in 1876 was elected to represent Miami county in the lower branch of the state legislature.

Alfred E. Zehring was educated in the public schools of his native township and the city of Peru and taught in the public schools for several years, though he has always classed himself as a farmer. He was one of the first board of directors of the Farmers' State Bank of Bunker Hill and since June, 1912, has been president of that institution. His charitable disposition is well known and he has always been interested in the matter of public improvement, such as good roads, good schools, etc. In 1910 he was nominated by the Democratic convention for state senator in the district composed of Howard and Miami counties, and though this district is normally Republican by 1,200, he was defeated by only 100 votes. Two years before that time he was the Democratic candidate for township trustee, but Deer Creek is one of the strong Republican townships and he was defeated. He has served as a member of the county council and has frequently been called upon to act as administrator, guardian for minor heirs, court commissioner and other positions of trust and responsibility.

The only society of which he is a member is the Miami County Detective Association. Though not a member of any church he is an attendant at religious services and a liberal contributor to church and charitable work.

On February 2, 1893, Mr. Zehring married Miss Della Wininger, a native of Deer Creek township, and to this union have been born five children: George, Claude, Emma, Lena and Lula, the last two being twins.



ARTHUR LAWRENCE BODURTHA. Although a native son of the Empire State, Arthur Lawrence Bodurtha has passed nearly all his life as a resident of the city of Peru. He was born in Hudson, New York, April 2, 1865, the only child of Harvey Lawrence and Mary (Haight) Bodurtha, though he had a half-brother, Charles E. Bodurtha. His paternal ancestors came from England about 1640 and settled near what is now West Springfield, Massachusetts, where most of their descendants still reside. Harvey L. Bodurtha came to Peru in the early '60s and engaged in business there, but retained his home in Hudson, New York, until the spring of 1866, when he brought his family to Indiana. Arthur L. Bodurtha was educated in the public schools of Peru, the academy at Glens Falls, New York, and at Williams College. He then studied law for two years in the office of William E. Mowbray, at Peru, and in April, 1889, was admitted to the bar of the Miami circuit court. In April, 1891, he abandoned the law for journalism, purchasing at that time a half interest in the *Peru Journal*, of which paper he was the editor until he disposed of his interest in November, 1913. As an editorial writer he became well known throughout Indiana, particularly among Republicans, with which party he has always affiliated. In 1898 he served as chairman of the Miami county Republican central committee, and in 1912 was the candidate for presidential elector for the Eleventh Congressional district on the Republican ticket. Governor Winfield T. Durbin appointed him to a position on the gubernatorial staff, with the rank of major.

Mr. Bodurtha has been actively identified with almost every movement for the betterment of Peru's material and municipal welfare. In this work his interest and executive ability was recognized by his fellow workers in the Peru Commercial Club, who elected him president of that organization for the years 1907 and 1908. He has also been identified with a number of the city's business enterprises.

Fraternally, Mr. Bodurtha is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and he holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Peru. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the National Geographic Society.

March 27, 1912, Mr. Bodurtha was united in marriage with Miss Kate C. Ross, daughter of James S. and Elizabeth Ross, of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. He resides at 128 West Main street, Peru, in the homestead formerly owned and occupied by his father's family.

















